0856-B-03 PREX 7.10:FBIS-EAS-92-099

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-099
Thursday
21 May 1992

JB 99-015426

COMPLETED

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-099 *21 May 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Kanemaru Considering Invitation To Visit U.S. *[KYODO]* 1
Private Advisory Group on Asian Policy Launched *[KYODO]* 1
WIPO To Discuss Industrial Property in Tokyo *[KYODO]* 1
British Delegation Seeks Fair Market Access *[KYODO]* 2
MITI Ready To Hold Talks With EC on Trade *[KYODO]* 2
Inclusion of Islands in Summit Document Sought *[KYODO]* 2
Russian Economics Minister on Weapons Sales *[KYODO]* 2
Further Reaction to Situation in Thailand Noted 3
Moves To Defuse Crisis Welcomed *[KYODO]* 3
Miyazawa Sends Message *[KYODO]* 3
'Positively Appraises' New Path *[KYODO]* 3
LDP Rejects SDP-Proposed Peacekeeping Bill *[KYODO]* 4
Rengo Balks at Endorsing Peacekeeping Bill *[KYODO]* 4
ODA Loans in Fiscal 1991 Hit Four-Year Low *[KYODO]* 4
Lawyers Form Defense Council for Foreigners *[KYODO]* 5
Tokyo, LDP Present Plan on Vote Disparity *[KYODO]* 5
Party Leaders Asked To Reapportion Lower House *[KYODO]* 6
Mieno Urges Stimulation of Domestic Demand *[KYODO]* 6
Tighter Scrutiny of Nonbank Lending Supported *[KYODO]* 6
Securities Group Urged To Dispel Unsavory Image *[KYODO]* 7
Nonlife Insurers To Boost Foreign Investment *[KYODO]* 7
New Office for Public Works Projects Proposed *[KYODO]* 7

Mongolia

Diplomatic Relations Established With Brunei *[Beijing XINHUA]* 7
Moves Toward Mass Media Freedom Reported *[Moscow ITAR-TASS]* 7
830th Birth Anniversary of Genghis Khan Marked *[Beijing XINHUA]* 8

North Korea

Joint Nuclear Control Committee Holds 2d Meeting *[Pyongyang Radio]* 8
ROK Urged Not To Impede Accord's Implementation *[KCNA]* 9
ROK Participation in Rimpac Criticized *[KCNA]* 9
U.S. Moves To Prolong 'Dictatorship' Criticized *[KCNA]* 9
Paper Denounces U.S. 'New World Order Doctrine' *[KCNA]* 10
KCNA Reports Rallies Marking Kwangju Anniversary 10
SKNDF Spokesman on Flag-Hoisting Issue *[KCNA]* 10
DLP National Convention Called 'Swindle' *[KCNA]* 11
Successes at Technology Exhibition Detailed *[KCNA]* 11
Export Value Increases '80 Times' Since 1976 *[KCNA]* 12
SPA Delegation Leaves for China *[KCNA]* 12
Yang Hyong-sop Meets Jiang Zemin *[KCNA]* 12
Officials Greet Arriving Chinese Art Troupe *[KCNA]* 12
Culture Ministry Hosts Banquet *[KCNA]* 12
Officials Meet Jiangsu Delegation *[KCNA]* 12
Army Sends Condolences on Death of PRC Marshal *[KCNA]* 13

I

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Chongnyon *[KCNA]* 13
Papers Hail Chongnyon 16th Congress *[KCNA]* 13
Peace Institute Deputy Interviewed at Tokyo Forum *[KCNA]* 13
Japanese Efforts To Amass Plutonium Highlighted *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
Alleged Forgery of Korea-Japan Treaties Examined *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
Article Lauds Benefits of Ideological Unity *[KCNA]* 15

South Korea

IAEA Team To Inspect North's Nuclear Sites *[TONG-A ILBO 21 May]* 15
Government Answers DPRK Tirade on Flag Issue *[YONHAP]* 16
Chief Delegate to Liaison Office Discusses Work *[SEOUL SINMUN 19 May]* 16
Reunification Cost Estimated at $50 Billion Yearly *[YONHAP]* 16
Trade Deficit With U.S. Growing Rapidly *[THE KOREA TIMES 21 May]* 17
Taipei Stance Not Affecting Push for PRC Ties *[THE KOREA HERALD 21 May]* 18
Tariff Raised To Stem Flow of Chinese Goods *[THE KOREA HERALD 20 May]* 18
Kuril Islands Dispute Hampering Deep-Sea Fishing *[THE KOREA HERALD 21 May]* 19
Vice Minister Leaves for Conference on CIS Aid *[YONHAP]* 19
Ships Leave Port To Join Rimpac Naval Maneuvers *[YONHAP]* 20
No Tae-u Meets With Thai Crown Prince *[YONHAP]* 20
Chong Chu-yong Criticizes Political Opponents *[THE KOREA TIMES 21 May]* 20
Russia To Grant Asylum to North Korean Student *[SEOUL SINMUN 21 May]* 20

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Bangladesh Blamed for Delay in Repatriation *[Rangoon Radio]* 22
Elder Son Allowed To Visit Aung San Suu Kyi *[Rangoon TV]* 22
Authorities Release More Political Detainees *[Rangoon Radio]* 22
Convicts Released After Army Service 22
498 in Mandalay *[Rangoon Radio]* 22
212 in Mon State *[Rangoon Radio]* 22

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Trade Opportunities With CIS States Viewed *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 22

Singapore

PRC Bankers Delegation Arrives for 5-Day Visit *[THE STRAITS TIMES 13 May]* 23

Cambodia

Foreign Ministry 'Regrets' Bloodshed in Thailand *[SPK]* 24
Prince Chakkrapong Activities in Vietnam Reported *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 24
Regime Naturalizing Vietnamese Before Elections *[Radio VGNUFC]* 24
Vietnamese 'Aggressors' Said Living in Phnom Penh *[Radio VGNUFC]* 25
UN Urged To Seek Details on SRV Forces *[Radio VGNUFC]* 25
Chea Sim: Charges of SRV Presence 'Pretext' *[SPK]* 25
KPNLF Congress Opens 21 May; Name To Change *[AFP]* 26
Sihanouk Visits Kompong Som 18 May *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 26

Indonesia

Government Recognizes Yugoslav Breakaway Republics *[ANTARA]* 27
Regulation on Foreign Ownership of Companies Seen *[KOMPAS 23 Apr]* 28
Gas Self-Sufficiency Expected 'This Year' *[ANTARA]* 28
Jakarta Court Jails E. Timorese Student *[ANTARA]* 28

Philippines

Alarm at French Shipment of Plutonium to Japan *[MALAYA 21 May]* 29
Creditors To Meet on Leyte Power Project Funding *[THE CHRONICLE 19 May]* 29
Aquino Promises To Leave 'Debt Relief Package' *[MANILA BULLETIN 19 May]* 30
Aquino Opposes World Bank Deregulation Plan *[MALAYA 20 May]* 30
Bank Data Show Increased Foreign Investment *[MALAYA 20 May]* 31
Chief Justice May Be Interim President *[Manila Radio]* 31
Ramos Leads Santiago by 557,000 Votes *[Manila Radio]* 31
Ramos Extends Lead *[Quezon City Radio]* 32
Malacanang Denies Pushing for Ramos Supporters *[Quezon City Radio]* 32
Candidates Warned on Inciting Supporters to Action *[Quezon City Radio]* 32
Ramos Party Accused of Vote Fraud *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 20 May]* 32
Ramos Party Denies Allegations *[Quezon City Radio]* 33
Coalition Exposes More Alleged Electoral Fraud *[Manila Radio]* 33
Police Chief Lowers Red Alert Status *[Manila Radio]* 33
Conference Evaluates Election Problems *[MANILA BULLETIN 21 May]* 33
Aquino Says Any Rightist Coup Attempt Will Fail *[Manila Radio]* 34

Thailand

King Meets Suchinda, Chamlong; Urges Cooperation *[Bangkok Radio]* 34
Suchinda, Chamlong Comment *[Bangkok TV]* 35
Speaker Applauds Meeting *[Bangkok Radio]* 36
Opposition Leaders Urge Opening House Session *[Bangkok TV]* 36
Chawalit Comments *[Bangkok TV]* 37
Suchinda Meets High-Ranking Military Officers *[Bangkok TV]* 37
Chamlong Reports on Detention *[Bangkok TV]* 37
Foreign Minister Pongphon on Current Situation *[Bangkok TV]* 37
Crown Prince Interviewed on Current Crisis *[Bangkok TV]* 38
Anan Says Detainees May Be Released on Bail *[THE NATION 21 May]* 38
Suchinda, Anan Lift Curfew 21 May *[Bangkok TV]* 39
3,000 Gather at Ratchadamnoen as Calm Returns *[AFP]* 39
Protestors Vow To Continue Peaceful Means *[BANGKOK POST 21 May]* 40
Protests in Provinces Condemn Violence *[BANGKOK POST 21 May]* 41
Health Official Comments on Riot Casualties *[Bangkok TV]* 43
Dailies To Be Closed Due to Riot Coverage *[AFP]* 43
Soldiers Sent to TV Station After Coverage Shifts *[THE NATION 21 May]* 43

Vietnam

Lawyer Sentenced for 'Antisocialist' Acts *[AFP]* 44
Women's Union Opens National Congress *[VNA]* 44
National Congress Closes *[VNA]* 45
Pham The Duyet at Hanoi Youth Union Meeting *[Hanoi Radio]* 45
Irrigation Development in Mekong Delta Viewed *[VNA]* 45

Japan

Kanemaru Considering Invitation To Visit U.S.

OW2105121892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1210 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said Thursday the United States is requesting that he visit in mid-June.

He made the remark during a lecture in Tokyo.

Aides said Kanemaru is considering leaving for Washington around June 10 at the invitation of President George Bush.

Kanemaru caught the ire of the Bush administration in 1990 when he traveled to Pyongyang to help initiate official talks with North Korea on normalizing relations between the two Asian countries.

Private Advisory Group on Asian Policy Launched

OW2105113492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa launched a private panel Thursday to help him lay out a vision for Japan's role in Asia in the 21st century in areas such as regional security and conducting its relationship with the United States.

In an opening address, Miyazawa told the panel that Japan would have to play an "active role" in promoting regional peace and prosperity, but would also have to deepen its understanding of feelings in the region regarding "past history."

Miyazawa was making an oblique reference to World War II aggression, a topic that still stirs concern in many neighboring Asian countries that feel Japan is reluctant to acknowledge its past deeds.

Miyazawa also cited maintaining an open economic system, providing economic cooperation, and protecting the environment as topics to be addressed by the 18-member panel of bureaucrats, academics, and representatives from the business community and the mass media.

"Some observers say that this region will lead the world in the 21st century. The Asia-Pacific will in the future continue to develop into the most attractive region, and is expected to depict one path for the new international order," Miyazawa said.

"It seems to me that the countries of the Asia-Pacific region have a special character...and are carving their own path," he said, saying it is necessary for Japan to define its vision for the future of Asia.

Miyazawa said that the United States will continue to play an important role in the region.

The panel, headed by Keio University President Tadao Ishikawa, is expected to solicit views from former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew for inclusion in its proposal for a post cold war Asian policy.

The panel is expected to meet once a month and compile a report by the end of the year.

The group agreed that discussing America's relationship with the region, and with Japan and China in particular, would be important in formulating recommendations.

There was a consensus that the concept for regional security should include the United States, said an official source who attended the two-hour gathering.

The group also agreed to grapple with how to balance promotion of human rights and democracy and noninterference in internal affairs of other countries, and what sort of regional groupings are in Japan's best interest, the source said.

As points for future debate, Ishikawa specified giving a "face" to Japan's foreign policy and determining the significance of Asia to Japan in its role as a global power.

During the inaugural meeting, panel members chose former Vice Foreign Minister Ryozo Sunobe as acting chairman.

The source also said former Singaporean Premier Lee will speak on Japan from Asian perspectives at the panel's next meeting on June 22.

WIPO To Discuss Industrial Property in Tokyo

OW2105122792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—A committee of the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) will open a five-day meeting next Monday to discuss information on industrial property such as patents, the Japanese Patent Office said Thursday.

WIPO's Permanent Committee on Industrial Property Information will hold its 10th session at the Patent office in Tokyo, Japanese officials said.

At the meeting Japan will propose revising the international patent indexing system to facilitate computer searches for patent data, the officials said.

Japan has introduced a system for global standardization of electronic patent applications.

The officials said the meeting will be attended by about 50 patent officials from 22 countries, including Japan, the United States, and North Korea.

North Korea is sending a delegate to the WIPO meeting for the first time.

British Delegation Seeks Fair Market Access

OW2105093292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0903 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—A British export promotion delegation urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Thursday to ensure that British products have fair access to Japan's market, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Michael Perry, executive of the British consumer products company Unilever PLC, also called on Miyazawa to cooperate with Britain in seeking a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, the officials said.

Perry's remarks came a day after the European Commission advised European Community governments to consider entering bilateral trade talks with Japan should the multilateral talks fail to dent a chronic trade deficit.

In reply, Miyazawa said that Japan is making an effort to give other countries fair access to its markets.

Perry, Prince Edward Duke of Kent and four other members of a priority Japan campaign trade and investment promotion delegation met with Miyazawa for 20 minutes at his official residence.

MITI Ready To Hold Talks With EC on Trade

OW2105122192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is ready to hold minister-level talks with the European Community (EC) on trade imbalances with Japan, after it analyzes statistics for each sector, a top MITI official said Thursday.

Asked if the discussion might resemble an EC version of Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative talks, MITI Vice Minister Yuji Tanahashi told reporters those talks apply not only to the United States but to the EC and other countries.

" We will positively discuss the matter with the EC if they find any sign of trade imbalances," Tanahashi said.

Inclusion of Islands in Summit Document Sought

OW2105122292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Japan has decided to urge its Group of Seven (G-7) partners to mention the importance of a resolution to its territorial dispute with Russia in a communique to be issued at an annual G-7 summit in July, government sources said Thursday.

The sources said Japan will press the issue in a series of preparatory meetings for the G-7 economic summit in Munich.

Leaders of the United States, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, and Britain, accepting the Japanese argument, mentioned the territorial issue in an economic declaration and a chairman's statement during the 1990 Houston Summit and in a chairman's statement in the 1991 London Summit.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa sought understanding on the matter during his trip to Germany and France earlier this month.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe is considering visiting Italy to make the same point prior to the Munich summit on July 6-8, government sources said.

Russian Economics Minister on Weapons Sales

OW2105113192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Visiting Russian Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev said Thursday that Russia will actively promote sales of weapons pending the conversion of its military industry to commercial production.

"Sales of weapons are a matter of great importance for us," Nechayev said in an interview with KYODO News Service in Tokyo, adding that stagnant operations at military production facilities will cause a serious social impact in the regions surrounding them.

He said weapons sales contracts concluded by Russia have plunged nearly 60 percent.

Arms sales will be separated from politics and conducted purely on a commercial basis, and Russia will strictly abide by United Nations-sponsored international agreements on weapons trade, the minister said.

The United States has criticized Russia over its sales of rocket engines to India.

Nechayev called for international support for Russian efforts toward nonmilitary production.

He also reaffirmed a plan to implement a fixed rouble exchange rate in August and said the rate would be about 80 to the dollar.

He predicted Russia and the International Monetary Fund will sign a loan agreement by the end of June after settling terms on the use of funds.

Russia's budget deficit in the current fiscal year will amount to an estimated 5.0 percent of the country's gross national product, or 3-4 percent, at best, Nechayev said.

Further Reaction to Situation in Thailand Noted

Moves To Defuse Crisis Welcomed

OW2105034692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0305 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Japan on Thursday welcomed pledges by Thai Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun and opposition leader Chamlong Simuang to defuse the tense political crisis that has led to at least 40 deaths.

"We appreciate Prime Minister Suchinda and parliamentarian Chamlong's agreement to settle the problem through talks. Japan hopes that the situation will normalize as soon as possible," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference.

Suchinda announced early Thursday he was freeing Chamlong and thousands of other demonstrators detained by the military. The two political leaders, appearing on television with King Phumiphon Adunyadet, said they would cooperate in seeking a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Miyazawa Sends Message

OW2105080092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0745 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, in a message conveyed Thursday to Thailand's Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun, welcomed the apparent end to the Thai military's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Sources said Japanese Ambassador to Thailand Hisahiko Okazaki took Miyazawa's message to Suchinda Thursday morning. The contents of the message are to be released later Thursday.

The meeting with Suchinda was originally arranged so Okazaki could convey an official expression of the Japanese Government's "deep regret" over the many deaths in the violent suppression of demonstrators,

The original message also was to call on Thai authorities to adopt a restrained approach to avoid further bloodshed.

But the sources said, positive developments Wednesday evening, namely the intervention by widely revered King Phumiphon and Suchinda's promise to back democratic reforms and to release all arrested politicians and demonstrators, rendered the message moot.

Earlier Thursday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said at a regular news conference that Japan appreciates an agreement between Suchinda and opposition parliament member Chamlong Simuang to settle the political crisis through talks.

About 40 people died in the protests by the Thai Government's count, though unconfirmed and unofficial estimates have put the toll in lives much higher. Hundreds more people were injured and thousands were arrested.

'Positively Appraises' New Path

OW2105105892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1030 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told Thai counterpart Suchinda Khraprayun on Thursday that Japan regrets the past few days of bloodshed in Bangkok, but welcomes the easing of the crisis through intervention by the Thai King.

Foreign Ministry officials said Miyazawa's message was conveyed to Suchinda by Japanese Ambassador to Thailand Hisahiko Okazaki, who met Thursday morning with the former military commander in chief.

Officials quoted Suchinda as saying, "Today, all is over," owing to the action of revered King Phumiphon Adunyadet.

The king on Wednesday evening called Suchinda and opposition politician Chamlong Simuang to his palace and instructed them to work out a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Officials said Suchinda told Okazaki he is confident the political situation will improve and the Constitution revised "in accordance with the wishes of the Thai people through parliamentary processes."

Suchinda, who masterminded last year's overthrow of the elected government of Chatchai Chunhawan, assumed the post of prime minister last month without having stood in general elections for the National Assembly in March.

Demonstrators led by Chamlong and others have been pressing for a constitutional revision which would require the prime minister to be an elected member of parliament.

"The correct means of democratizing politics is through parliament," Suchinda was quoted as telling Okazaki, apparently a swipe at street demonstrators, at least 40 of whom were killed by Thai troops and hundreds more injured.

Miyazawa said, "It was regrettable that a situation arose in which many lives were lost."

He said Japan "positively appraises the fact that a path toward national reconciliation was opened" based on the agreement between Suchinda and Chamlong in accordance with the wishes of the king.

Chamlong was arrested during the turmoil, but released Wednesday by Suchinda for the audience with the king.

Miyazawa called on the Thai Government to rapidly take "proper measures" to implement the agreement reached between Suchinda and Chamlong aimed at national reconciliation.

The two agreed in part to end the demonstrations, release and give amnesty to all arrested politicians and demonstrators, achieve peace through parliamentary means, and amend the Constitution.

LDP Rejects SDP-Proposed Peacekeeping Bill

OW2105122592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP) cannot get an inch of compromise from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on the SDP's proposed bill to send civilians overseas to join U.N. peacekeeping operations, an SDP leader said.

SDP Secretary General Shigeru Ito made the remark in briefing reporters in the Diet building shortly after he met with LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki and LDP Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Seiroku Kajiyama.

Ito said he told the two LDP leaders that the SDP, Japan's largest opposition party, will not change its rejection of the government-proposed bill to allow Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Ito said the SDP will make every effort to get its own bill through the opposition-controlled, 252-seat House of Councillors.

The SDP secretary general quoted Kajiyama as saying the LDP will not be able to amend the government-proposed bill to match the SDP bill.

Ito told reporters Watanuki was silent during most of the meeting.

But Ito said the LDP and SDP agreed to continue discussing the peacekeeping cooperation bill and other important issues, including political reform.

The SDP has proposed its own bill to set up a permanent corps independent of the SDF to send civilians overseas to help U.N. peacekeeping missions.

The LDP, however, is trying to get the government-proposed bill through the opposition-controlled upper chamber with help from the two middle-of-the-road opposition parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party.

The bill is currently pending in the upper house after passing through the more powerful, LDP-controlled House of Representatives last December.

The bill will become a law only if the two chambers of the Diet approve it.

Rengo Balks at Endorsing Peacekeeping Bill

OW2105040992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Labor leader Akira Yamagishi told an opposition leader Thursday that his 8 million-strong Rengo labor organization and its political affiliate Rengo Sangiin are unable to support the government's United Nations peacekeeping operations bill. Yamagishi, head of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), in a meeting with Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida, called for an amicable settlement of the disagreements among the opposition parties on the peacekeeping operations bill.

Komeito, the second-largest opposition party, supports the bill which would allow Japanese troops to take part in U.N. peacekeeping operations overseas. The No. 1 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party, strongly objects to the bill and has threatened "physical resistance" when it comes to a vote in the House of Councillors.

Rengo Sangiin has 13 members in the opposition-controlled second chamber deliberating the bill, which cleared the more powerful House of Representatives late last year. Rengo provides the main base of support for the SDP and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), the fourth-largest opposition party, which pledges support for the bill on condition that it include a provision for Diet approval in advance of any dispatch of Self-Defense Forces to peacekeeping missions.

In an hourlong session with Ishida, Yamagishi said, "We will make every effort to approve the bill but the current political situation surrounding Rengo Sangiin is hard," according to a Komeito official.

Ishida called on Yamagishi to side with Komeito, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and the DSP, which are trying to pass the bill through the current session of the upper house after some modifications.

ODA Loans in Fiscal 1991 Hit Four-Year Low

OW2105131292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1239 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Japan's official development assistance (ODA) loans during fiscal 1991 totaled 979.4 billion yen in terms of official notes exchanged, down 8.5 percent from the previous year, the Foreign Ministry announced Thursday.

The total amount was below 1 trillion yen for the first time in four years, due chiefly to a decrease in the number of ODA loan projects in the Philippines and the conversion of South Korea into an aid giver, ministry officials said.

Loans to the Asia region plummeted by more than 200 billion yen from the previous year to 604.7 billion yen, or

61.7 percent of the total, a sharp decline of 15 percentage points from the preceding year.

By contrast, loans to the Middle East showed a 2.3-fold increase to 228.8 billion yen because of aid given to Mideast countries adversely affected by the Persian Gulf war, such as Egypt.

ODA loans to Mideast countries accounted for 23.4 percent of the total amount of ODA loans in fiscal 1991, which ended on March 31.

This share was far above 9.6 percent for Latin America and 4.7 percent for Africa.

Japan granted debt repayment rescheduling to eight countries through the Paris Club of donor nations for a total of 31.7 billion yen in the year under review.

The general untied loan ratio rose 5.4 percentage points to 89.8 percent.

A total of 85 ODA loans were extended to 21 countries, including Mongolia and Panama, the latest additions to the list of aid receivers.

Lawyers Form Defense Council for Foreigners

OW2105121392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Some 40 Japanese lawyers and interpreters set up a defense council Thursday to help foreigners be at less of a disadvantage if they are arrested or prosecuted in criminal cases, lawyers said.

Staff members from five foreign consulates, including those of Malaysia and the Philippines, attended the council's inaugural meeting in Tokyo, the lawyers said.

At the meeting, the lawyers pointed out the disadvantages that foreigners face when involved in criminal cases, usually as a result of their poor command of Japanese.

Some foreigners cannot understand police instructions, and forfeit their legal right allowing them to remain silent until assigned a public defender, they said.

The lawyers also said that in some cases foreigners are forced to sign depositions written in Japanese without knowing contents of the documents, they said.

To counter the situation, the legal team decided to form an aid network to meet with and defend foreign suspects on request, they said.

Tokyo, LDP Present Plan on Vote Disparity

OW2005063092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0557 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Wednesday unveiled a plan aimed at easing the disparities in the value of votes cast in House of Representatives constituencies. The plan calls for efforts to add one seat each in nine lower house electoral districts and shed one each in 10 other constituencies to reduce the discrepancy between populous and less-populous electoral districts to 2.27 to 1 for the time being, ruling party and government officials said.

Eventually, it is hoped to reduce the maximum value of a rural vote relative to an urban vote in elections for the 512-seat lower house so that no vote is worth more than two times as much as any other, they said. Currently, the maximum disparity in the value of votes in lower house constituencies is 3.34 to 1 as of September 2, 1991, according to the Home Affairs Ministry.

The Supreme Court has ruled that a disparity of more than three-to-one is unconstitutional on the ground that such an imbalance goes against the principle of equality of citizens.

LDP legislator Shigeru Kasuya, acting chairman of the party's Political Reform Headquarters, heard opinions from the LDP lawmakers whose constituencies under the plan would be subject to reduction of the number of seats, party officials said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will explain the plan and seek understanding of it at a meeting with opposition party leaders on May 28, the officials said. Although there is a lingering view within the LDP that the number of lower house seats should be increased by one in four constituencies in return for a cut by the same margin in four electoral districts, Miyazawa repeatedly called for a more drastic reallocation of lower house seats to win the backing of the public. The prime minister Wednesday morning expressed a strong desire to gain approval on the measure during the current Diet session, which ends on June 21.

In separate meetings with LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki and Seiroku Kajiyama, chairman of the party's Diet Affairs Committee, Kasuya reportedly said understanding toward the move deepened since the 1986 redistribution of lower house seats. At that time, eight constituencies gained one seat each and seven lost one seat each.

If the planned redistribution is realized, one vote in the No. 3 Constituency in Ehime Prefecture will be worth 2.77 times more than a vote in the No. 11 Constituency in Tokyo. At the same time, however, the reallocation of lower house seats would produce four two-seat constituencies and one six-seat electoral district, which would run counter to a 1986 Diet resolution calling for the abolition of two-seat and six-seat constituencies.

Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), said his party will positively consider the reallocation if the LDP proposes a more drastic correction in the disparity, SDP officials said.

Tanabe made the comments at a study meeting of SDP legislators who are serving their first term, the officials said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said at a news conference Wednesday morning that Miyazawa might modify the plan sketched out by the government and the LDP at his own discretion.

Negotiations within the LDP are expected to face rough going, however, because LDP lawmakers whose constituencies would be subject to seat-number reductions under the plan are expected to step up their opposition, political analysts said.

Party Leaders Asked To Reapportion Lower House

OW2105123292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday asked ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] leaders to make efforts to enact a political reform plan aimed at reducing vote-value disparities among House of Representatives constituencies, party officials said.

Miyazawa, who concurrently serves as LDP president, made the request in a meeting with the LDP leaders, including Vice President Shin Kanemaru, Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki, and Takashi Hasegawa, chairman of the party's political reform headquarters.

Miyazawa was quoted as telling the LDP leaders that the present electoral districts, considered unconstitutional according to a Supreme Court ruling, should not be left unchanged.

The court ruled that a disparity of more than 3-to-1 is unconstitutional on the grounds that such an imbalance runs counter to the principle of equality of citizens.

Currently, the maximum disparity in the value of votes among lower house constituencies is 3.34-to-1 as of September 2, 1991, according to the Home Affairs Ministry.

Under the plan made public by the LDP on Wednesday, one seat would be added to each of the nine lower house electoral districts while one seat would be eliminated in each of the 10 other constituencies. The measure is designed to reduce the discrepancy between populated and less-populous electoral districts to 2.27-to-1.

Miyazawa instructed the LDP leaders to coordinate party opinions and negotiate with opposition parties to compile a bill in line with the LDP reform plan and to pass it through the current Diet session ending on June 21, according to the officials.

Miyazawa also told the party executives that he hopes they will tackle further drastic electoral reform measures, adding that the plan to redistribute the lower house seats is only an emergency measure.

Three opposition parties—the largest Social Democratic Party, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party—have expressed flexible stances toward the LDP plan.

Mieno Urges Stimulation of Domestic Demand

OW2105050492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0452 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno stressed the need Thursday for Japan to stimulate domestic demand for sustainable economic expansion without fears of inflation and open its market wider to imports. He expressed the hope at a meeting of industry and labor leaders, hosted by Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo, that the yen's exchange rate will stabilize to contribute to attain that goal.

Mieno is the first central bank head in 17 years to attend the meeting, called the industry and labor roundtable conference. Referring to the current state of the domestic economy, he said it is experiencing an inevitable adjustment process to transform from an excessive rate of expansion to desirable expansion.

Corporations now face the severest stage of inventory adjustments at a time of economic transformation, he said. He called on financial institutions to make efforts to overcome their losses resulting from the collapse of the bubble economy.

Tighter Scrutiny of Nonbank Lending Supported

OW2105033292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0312 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—A ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) panel agreed Thursday on the need to tighten up monitoring of the lending activities of nonbank financial institutions.

The panel, affiliated with the investigation committee for the finance and banking systems, adopted the idea, contained in a report compiled by the panel head Shunjiro Karasawa. Detailed steps to be taken, including revision of relevant laws, will be drafted at a joint meeting of the committee and the LDP's Finance Division, to be held next Thursday.

The governing party has been studying stricter surveillance of the lending activities of the rapidly growing, relatively loosely regulated nonbanks, such as credit and leasing companies. Those institutions have increased their presence in the nation's financial market over the past several years through active lending to real estate firms, with their outstanding lending coming to 98 trillion yen at the end of March 1991. The recent collapse of the so-called "bubble economy" driven by ballooning asset prices in the late 1980s, however, forced many of them to go under.

The ruling party decided last year to oblige nonbanks to report their real-estate-related loans, but has continued discussions to widen the scope of loans, subject to a reporting obligation on all types of lending.

Securities Group Urged To Dispel Unsavory Image

OW2105055492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0522 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata Thursday exhorted securities business leaders to eradicate the general perception that stock investment is an unsavory business, a Finance Ministry official said.

Hata, in a meeting with the leading figures of the financial and securities industries, said it is a pity that there is a perception among the public that investing in securities is a fishy business. He asked the leaders of the securities industry to strive to dispel such a perception, the official said.

The securities executives reportedly pledged to make efforts to eliminate the industry's poor image, a product of the stock scandals that rocked the Japanese market last year, and also vowed to restore the credibility of the market. They called on the ministry to ease restrictions on the corporate bond market, the official said.

The leaders of financial industry, including banks, told Hata they now see some bright signals in the economy, the official said. Although corporate demand for capital remains soft, recovery is under way in the housing sector and in construction machinery orders as well, they were quoted as saying. Inventory adjustment is also going well, they said.

The economy is likely to bottom out at around the middle of the year, and business sentiment will pick up in autumn, the official quoted the financial executives as saying.

They called on Hata to help wipe out the concerns in overseas markets about the Japanese financial system, concerns they say are ungrounded, according to the official. The bankers also complained about the continued shift of money to postal savings accounts, and called for a review of the government's policy on postal savings, he said.

Nonlife Insurers To Boost Foreign Investment

OW2105012692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0010 GMT 21 May 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Japan's five biggest nonlife insurance companies are planning to boost their investment in foreign bonds while curbing that in domestic stocks in fiscal 1992, which ends next March 31, the NIKKEI KINYU SHIMBUN reported Thursday.

The combined assets of the "Big Five" for the current fiscal year are expected to increase by 750 billion yen from last year, the financial daily said, quoting their asset investment plans. It said 23.1 percent of the growth will be earmarked for investments in foreign currency-denominated bonds in the current year compared with 8.7 percent for fiscal 1991.

The higher ratio stems from their judgment that the yen will follow a downward trend against the U.S. dollar in fiscal 1992, the paper said. In contrast, the ratio of investment in domestic stocks to the total will be lowered sharply to 5.5 percent from 17.0 percent, it said. [passage omitted]

New Office for Public Works Projects Proposed

OW2105085592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0832 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—A leading business group urged the government Thursday to establish a special office under the prime minister's control to work out a 10-year basic plan for public works projects.

The Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), in a special report on "social capital toward the 21st century," said the office should be established to coordinate government activities relating to such projects.

Keidanren said the government has yet to come up with a grand design for planned public works expenditure of 430 trillion yen over 10 years, now in the second year.

The report said the plan should be used to achieve "real affluence" for Japan.

The federation said the lack of government coordination on public works projects could create problems in attaining balanced growth in Japan.

Mongolia

Diplomatic Relations Established With Brunei

OW1905123492 Beijing XINHUA in English 1212 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Ulanbaatar, May 19 (XINHUA)—Mongolia and Brunei established diplomatic relations Monday, the Mongolian News Agency reported today.

The agency said that so far 125 countries have set up diplomatic ties with Mongolia.

Moves Toward Mass Media Freedom Reported

LD1005094492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 9 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dugar Sanzhiyev]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 7 May—The creation of conditions for the normal functioning of the mass media, independent of the state and other structures of power, would appear to be a substantial contribution to deepening the process of perestroyka in Mongolia. This is stated in the

cabinet of ministers' reply to an appeal by the Union of Free Democratic Journalists. The full text of the reply has been published in the newspaper "ARDCHILAL" ("DEMOCRACY") today.

Touching on the demands put forward by the journalists on changing the status of national radio and television and the fact that they are no longer accountable to the government, and sharing their material and technical basis, the cabinet of ministers believes that the first part of the question falls within the competence of the Small Hural—Mongolia's permanently operating parliament—and that the second part must be resolved in complete accordance with the law on privatization.

The government has upheld proposals on opening a radio and television news and commercial channel and granting the radio and television center the right to be an independent, self-financing, economic unit.

The possibility of political forces and private individuals participating in the work of the mass media is recognized as an inalienable right secured by the new fundamental law. The government does not differentiate between central, local, and other publications and will be attentive to their requests for help in acquiring newsprint, the document notes.

830th Birth Anniversary of Genghis Khan Marked

OW1905115492 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1216 GMT 18 May 92

[By reporters Bata Erchang and Wang Yanchun]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 17 May (XINHUA)—The Mongolian People's Republic has decided to hold commemorative activities throughout the country from 17 May to 13 July to mark the 830th birth anniversary of Genghis Khan (1162-1227).

At a memorial meeting held in Ulaanbaatar today, President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat praised Genghis Khan as an outstanding military commander, political leader, and hero of Mongolian nationality. Commemorative meetings were also held in other provinces, cities, and counties in Mongolia on 17 May.

Negative feelings toward Genghis Khan were prevalent in Mongolia since the victory of the people's revolution in 1921. However, people's attitude toward him has changed in recent years.

North Korea

Joint Nuclear Control Committee Holds 2d Meeting

SK2105050692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] The second meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee took place yesterday in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Committee in Panmunjom. Three members from each side and suite members participated in the contact, which took place behind closed doors. Our side's member gave a briefing on the contact.

He stated that at the first meeting our side urged the South side to bring a draft agreement for a package discussion of the agreement on the implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration and inspection rules, as both sides agreed to this at the fourth joint committee meeting.

However, the South came to the contact empty-handed, without even a draft agreement, and insisted on discussing only inspection rules. From the very beginning it talked about the so-called nuclear reprocessing facilities, worries about the nuclear weapons development, and the like, and made provocative remarks that had nothing to do with the members' contact. Thus, it created an artificial obstacle to the contact.

This was a very unreasonable attitude reflecting the South side's impure political purpose of marring the atmosphere of the talks and leading the talks in other directions, thus preventing the joint denuclearization declaration from being implemented appropriately and misleading public opinion to think the other side is responsible for this.

Our side strongly said that the South side's remarks were provocations designed to avoid discussing the agreement on implementing the joint declaration and inspection rules. Our side asked the South why it came to the contact today.

Our side also said that if the South side had not followed the U.S. nuclear policy, the nuclear issue itself would not have even been raised in our country. It also repeatedly asked the South side to make clear its position over whether, as already agreed, it will present a draft agreement on implementing the joint denuclearization declaration. However, the South side avoided answering this question and made unreasonable excuses.

Our side stressed that today's contact was to discuss countermeasures to implement the denuclearization declaration and urged that both sides hold discussions based on the draft agreement, which we had already presented, if the South side came without its own. However, the South side unreasonably insisted on having its own way by saying that discussions on the implementation agreement must be postponed, that only inspection rules must be discussed, and that no agreement had been reached on a package discussion.

Also, the South side said: Rules of inspection must be discussed. Still, it is not necessary to draft rules for the inspection of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases.

Thus, it reacted negatively to any reference to nuclear weapons and nuclear bases.

Even though the South side said it was interested in inspection, in reality it ignored the subject. Moreover, it proved it was unwilling to implement the joint denuclearization declaration.

Concluding the contact, our side stressed that trust should be built through dialogue between the two sides and urged the South side to bring a draft agreement on implementing the joint declaration to the next contact without fail.

Both sides agreed to hold the third members' meeting on 23 May.

ROK Urged Not To Impede Accord's Implementation

SK2005111392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 20 May 92

["Implementation of Agreement Must Not Be Impeded"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 20 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities must not put a spoke in the wheel of the implementation of the North-South agreement with war clamor but stop the arms race and choose for disarmament, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article.

Noting that the U.S. imperialists occupying South Korea and the South Korean rulers continue pursuing the confrontation policy, increasing the tension, even after the important agreement involving nonaggression between the North and the South was brought into effect, the article goes on:

The United States and the South Korean authorities announced that they would not stage "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres this year. But they continue playing war gambles aimed at invasion of the North as before.

Notably, the joint aerial war exercises against the North staged by the U.S. forces and the puppet army with the mobilization of hundreds of warplanes every day are war gambles which may be converted into a real war any moment.

The espionage committed by the U.S. imperialist aggressors on our side's area with the mobilization of strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes of various types from the beginning of the year to the end of March ran into 670 cases and more.

A smooth dialogue is impossible when guns roar and, even if the sides sit at the negotiating table, a sincere dialogue cannot be held and the points of agreement cannot be fulfilled successfully.

The South Korean authorities' moves are intentional acts aimed at obstructing the implementation of the North-South agreement.

They must not follow the outside forces, taking leave of their senses, but respect the agreement reached between fellow countrymen.

ROK Participation in Rimpac Criticized

SK2105054592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 21 May 92

["Acts Running Counter to Detente"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 21 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities Wednesday dispatched two naval vessels and 330 seamen to the "Rimpac Exercise-92" which will be staged under the command of the United States in the waters between California and Hawaii, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South have been adopted and brought into effect on the Korean peninsula and the sentiments of detente and peace are mounting in the international arena. Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities remain overheated in arms buildup and military exercises for increasing war capacity, following the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression and war.

The South Korean authorities' dispatch of naval ships and soldiers to the war exercise in the Pacific waters shows their invariable moves for a war.

U.S. Moves To Prolong 'Dictatorship' Criticized

SK1905110992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 19 May 92

["U.S. Imperialists' Moves To Prolong Pro-American Military Dictatorship in South Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists are hell-bent on maintaining the pro-American military dictatorial "regime" in South Korea with a view to keeping hold on South Korea which they regard as an important strategic stronghold in gratifying their ambition for world domination as their complete colony and military base for an indefinite period, says NODONG SINMUN today.

Noting that it is none other than the U.S. imperialists who are propping up the pro-American dictatorial "regime" in South Korea, shaping "policies" and holding sway over their execution, the paper goes on:

All the pro-American dictatorial "regimes" set up in South Korea after August 15, 1945, from the Syngman Rhee "regime" to the present "regime" of the "Sixth Republic" were brainchilds of the United States.

Now a serious situation surrounding the nomination of "presidential candidates" for the next term has been

created in South Korea, and the U.S. imperialists are working round the clock to take measures for saving the situation.

Their moves to maintain and prolong the pro-American military dictatorship in South Korea are stubborn and heinous. Subsequently, the South Korean people's efforts for democratic development have faced a grave challenge in every step.

The U.S. imperialists' moves are vicious criminal acts of infringing upon the South Korean people's national sovereignty and democracy and they must never be tolerated.

Paper Denounces U.S. 'New World Order Doctrine'

SK2005111492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1025 GMT 20 May 92

["NODONG SINMUN Denounces U.S. Doctrine of 'New World Order'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a by-lined article titled "To Try To Dominate Others by Violence Is Anachronistic Dream." Denouncing the "new world order" doctrine advocated by the U.S. authorities, the article says:

The attempt to dominate and oppress others by violence reveals an aggressive, anti-popular nature and runs counter to the desire of the people for independence and the trend of the times. It reminds us of the jungle law.

The U.S. authorities contend that "any state or group of states must be brought under control so that they cannot challenge the predominance of the United States" and the U.S. must possess "sufficient military capabilities" for this.

The U.S. "new world order" plan in which it would never allow "challenge to its predominance" and would guarantee its "predominance" by force is nothing but a manifestation of the dominationist way of thinking against the demands of the times for the building of a new free and peaceful world, the aspiration of mankind.

There can be big and small countries, but there cannot be superior and inferior nations. And there can be difference in the level of development, but there cannot be dominating and dominated nations.

All countries and nations have independent and equal rights as equal members of the international community. No privilege and arbitrariness must be allowed in the international relations. It should be the main current of the development of international relations toward the 21st century to actively develop friendship and cooperation among nations on the principle of independence, non-interference in others' internal affairs, mutual respect, equality and reciprocity.

To try to seek one's interests and dominate others by violence is a foolish dream which cannot be realised on any account and cannot be tolerated by anyone.

KCNA Reports Rallies Marking Kwangju Anniversary

SK2005060092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0535 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 20 (KCNA)—Mass rallies marking the 12th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising took place Tuesday in South Pyongan, North and South Hwanghae Provinces and Kaesong Municipality.

Pasted up at the places of rallies were slogans reading "Sternly denounce the U.S. imperialists, the mastermind of Kwangju massacre!" "Punish the murderers who turned Kwangju into a sea of blood!" "Active support and encouragement to the anti-U.S., anti-fascist struggle for democracy of the South Korean people and students!" "Let North and South get united and reunify the country!" "Korea is one!" "U.S. troops, go home!" "Independence and reunification!" and posters.

The speakers at the rallies said that the May, 1980, Kwangju popular uprising which dealt a heavy blow at the colonial military fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges proved that the popular masses could win victory, if they waged an undaunted struggle in close unity.

Noting that sovereignty is vital to the destiny of the country and the nation as was shown by the Kwangju popular uprising, they said that the United States must no more interfere in the internal affairs of our nation and the South Korean authorities must take the stand of national independence since the North and the South vowed nonaggression and agreed upon reconciliation and cooperation.

They stressed that the South Korean students and people should turn out in the struggle more courageously to get the U.S. Forces withdrawn and establish national sovereignty for putting an end to the military fascist rule in South Korea where democracy and fascism are standing in sharpest confrontation and for bringing independence, democracy and reunification at an early date.

SKNDF Spokesman on Flag-Hoisting Issue

SK2105102592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1011 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 21 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) in a commentary published on May 17 denounced the South Korean authorities' suppression of the student movement, according to a report of radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

The commentary says:

The South Korean authorities' suppression of the student movement on the pretext of the hoisting of DPRK flags is a despicable act of political terrorism to throw a

wet blanket over the growing desire of the people of all walks of life for national reunification and seize the opportunity to remove all the elements standing in the way of the extension of the pro-U.S. dictatorial "regime" before the reorganization of power.

That students hoisted DPRK flags alongside North-South unified flags boosting the atmosphere of great national unity is a manifestation of their noble patriotic spirit to bring earlier at any cost the day of glory when the North and the South become one. And their appeal to drive out the Stars and Stripes of the United States and achieve reunification is a righteous act that demonstrated the will of the fellow countrymen to accomplish the historical cause of national reunification in reliance upon the united force of national independence, not depending on outside forces.

DLP National Convention Called 'Swindle'

SK2105104792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 21 (KCNA)—The ruling "Democratic Liberal Party" [DLP] of South Korea staged a national convention for the nomination of the next-term "presidential" candidate on May 19, according to a report.

Advertising the convention, the present rulers blared that the nomination of the "presidential" candidate would be fairly carried out according to "democratic" procedures in a "free" atmosphere.

But Yi Chong-chan suddenly dropped out of the race for "presidential" candidacy of the "DLP" with the national convention for the nomination of the candidate close at hand.

The present chief executive intended to "demonstrate" the "democratic" image of the "Sixth Republic" system, defeat the opposition parties in the "presidential" election and maintain the present system by letting Yi Chong-chan of "Democratic Justice Party" origin and Kim Yong-sam of "Reunification Democratic Party" origin "freely" compete for "DLP" candidacy and to secure his safety after his retirement by handing over the "presidential" baton to Kim Yong-sam.

On May 16, Yi Chong-chan met with No Tae-u and exposed the fact that the Kim Yong-sam faction urged the electors to back Kim because he was appointed successor to the "president" at the time of the merger of one ruling and two opposition parties and protested and complained about the injustice of the race for "presidential" candidacy.

It is a political swindle to advertise "free" competition after appointing a specific nominee in advance.

Words have got around in the "DLP" about disciplinary measures against Yi Chong-chan on the charge of his refusal of competition while Yi is showing signs of breaking with the "DLP" together with his camp and run for "presidency" on separate ticket by forming a new party. If this happened, the "DLP" would not able to evade upheaval and big confusion.

The scheme of the present ruling group of South Korea to maintain the "DLP" system, worse still, by the transfer of "power" through swindle, far from lending an ear to the voices of the South Korean people demanding the stepdown of the "Sixth Republic" and the dissolution of the "DLP", is the last ditch effort of the one on the death's doorstep.

Successes at Technology Exhibition Detailed

SK2005154492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 20 (KCNA)—All the six kinds of goods presented by Korean scientists and technicians received prizes at the 20th International Invention and New Technology Exhibition which was held in Geneva some time ago.

Microchannel electronic multiplier with high capacity which was highly estimated as a product of advanced technology was awarded a gold medal and compound semiconductor and passive infrared-ray source detector gold-silver medals.

According to data available, Korean scientists and technicians presented many inventions to international invention and new technology exhibitions over the past five years, which won 40 medals and 2 prizes from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the main prize of the exhibition.

Among them there are ten gold medal winners including an ultra-high vacuum pump, a typewriter of five languages and a speed reducer without toothed wheel.

Eleven items of inventions showing the signal development of science and technology of Korea were presented to the 18th international invention and new technology exhibition held in April 1990, which collected four gold medals, two gold-silver medals and four silver medals.

Last year Korean scientists and technicians presented a number of exhibits showing achievements in the chuche-orientation and modernisation of the national economy and in improving the qualitative standards of mass consumption goods, creating a great stir among the visitors to the exhibition.

The chairman of the organising committee of the exhibition noted that the technologies of the DPRK are developing at a very fast speed and the exhibits of Korea exalt the authority of the exhibition because they are always new and of a high level.

Export Value Increases '80 Times' Since 1976

SK2005110792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1002 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 20 (KCNA)—The Unha General Bureau of Trade of the DPRK is increasing the production of exports year by year.

According to data available, the annual export value of the bureau has grown 80 times since it was founded in 1976.

The major factor of this success lies in that many factories have been commissioned under the Bureau and its existing factories modernized.

The Hwangju textile mill, the pneumatic spinning shop of the Kaesong textile mill, the Kowon and Wonsan export garment factories and the Hungnam towel factory have been commissioned or modernized this year.

The Bureau, which was founded with 20 factories, has been turned into a mighty processing trade base which has about 110 factories producing textiles, garments, towels, socks and stockings and packing materials and a trading vessel.

SPA Delegation Leaves for China

SK1905120492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1038 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 19 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of Korea headed by its Chairman Yang Hyong-sop left here today for a visit to China.

It was seen off at the airport by Secretary of the Standing Committee of the SPA Yi Mong-ho and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi.

Yang Hyong-sop Meets Jiang Zemin

SK2105050992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0423 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 21 (KCNA)—Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, noting that the relations between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are very good, declared that China resolutely supports the stand to reunify the country independently and peacefully, which was clarified by President Kim Il-song.

He made clear this stand when he met a delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of Korea headed by Chairman Yang Hyong-sop on a visit to China on May 20.

Officials Greet Arriving Chinese Art Troupe

SK1905222292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1543 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 19 (KCNA)—A Jiangsu and Yangzhou art troupe led by Sun Jiazheng, alternate member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and deputy secretary of its Jiangsu Provincial Committee, arrived here today at the invitation of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Arriving together with the art troupe was a delegation of the Jiangsu Provincial Committee of the CPC.

A large number of artistes in the city warmly welcomed the Chinese artistes, shouting slogans "Welcome, friendship" and waving bunches of flowers.

They were met at the Pyongyang railway station by Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; Kim Chong-ho, vice-minister of Culture and Art; Choe Yong-hwa, first vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea, other officials concerned and Zheng Yi, Chinese ambassador to Korea, and embassy officials.

Culture Ministry Hosts Banquet

SK2005054292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0527 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 20 (KCNA)—The Ministry of Culture and Art arranged a reception Tuesday for the Jiangsu-Yangzhou art troupe of China on a visit to Korea.

Invited to the reception were the members of the art troupe headed by Sun Jiazheng, alternate member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and deputy secretary of the Jiangsu provincial committee of the party, and Zheng Yi, Chinese ambassador to Korea.

Present there were Vice-premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol, Vice-director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Yang-kon, officials concerned and artistes in the city.

Speeches were exchanged at the reception.

Officials Meet Jiangsu Delegation

SK2105111192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1040 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 21 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], today met and had a friendly talk with the Jiangsu provincial committee delegation of the Communist Party of China led by Sun Jiazheng, alternate member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and deputy secretary of its Jiangsu provincial committee.

Present there were Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and Zheng Yi, Chinese ambassador to Korea.

Army Sends Condolences on Death of PRC Marshal

SK1905155892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1531 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 19 (KCNA)—The Ministry of People's Armed Forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of condolence on May 17 to the Ministry of National Defence of the People's Republic of China on the death of Marshal Nie Rongzhen, a veteran revolutionary of China and one of the founders of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Noting that Comrade Nie Rongzhen took part in the revolutionary struggle in his early years, made an imperishable contribution to the struggle for the accomplishment of the Chinese people's cause of freedom and liberation and rendered great services for the socialist construction and the strengthening and development of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, the message stressed that although Comrade Nie Rongzhen passed away, his exploits will remain long.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Chongnyon

SK2105051292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0416 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 21 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song sent a congratulatory message to the 16th congress of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on May 21.

He in the message said that Chongnyon has developed the movement of Koreans in Japan onto a higher stage by further strengthening its organisations of all levels organisationally and ideologically and successfully carrying out its patriotic tasks, bravely overcoming all trials under the complicated situation in the surrounding areas during the period under review.

He extended thanks to the entire officials of Chongnyon and compatriots in Japan, highly appraising Chongnyon which is devoting all patriotic loyalty to the noble cause for the homeland and the nation under the uplifted banner of the chuche idea.

He stressed that the 16th congress of Chongnyon is a significant one in the historical period when the authority of the DPRK is rising and a new phase of national reunification is opening and that Chongnyon should strengthen its ranks organisationally and ideologically with firm confidence and optimism in the victory of the cause of chuche and push ahead with all patriotic work including the movement for national reunification.

He said that Chongnyon should improve its work in conformity with the requirement of the developing reality, strengthen the driving force of the Koreans' movement in Japan and steadily enhance its role.

Papers Hail Chongnyon 16th Congress

SK2105051992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0454 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 21 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN, MINJU CHOSON and other Pyongyang-based papers today warmly hail the significant 16th congress of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) which will set up a new milestone in the movement of Koreans in Japan and extend fervent compatriotic greetings to the participants in the congress and the 700,000 Koreans in Japan.

NODONG SINMUN says that Chongnyon after the 15th congress kept a tighter hold on the policy of modelling its ranks on the chuche idea and deepened the work for its materialisation and registered signal successes in its patriotic work in the teeth of the unprecedentedly vicious anti-socialist, anti-DPRK and anti-Chongnyon subversive activities of the imperialists and the reactionaries.

In the period under review Chongnyon has strengthened and developed into a powerful chuche-based organisation of overseas compatriots with a high honor of being a model of patriotism and loyalty and a pioneer of the movement of overseas compatriots by gaining brilliant achievements in building its organizations and in its patriotic activities, the paper notes, and continues:

The proud achievements and feats of Chongnyon in the period under review are a brilliant victory of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's chuche-based idea of the movement of overseas compatriots and a proud fruition of the wise guidance and paternal love of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The movement of Koreans in Japan has been able to further strengthen and develop as desired and intended by the great leader under the energetic guidance of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The people in the homeland are convinced that the entire officials of Chongnyon and Koreans in Japan will in the future, too, thoroughly implement the policy of modelling the ranks on the chuche idea, cherishing deep in their hearts the honor and pride of being eternal companion and faithful helper in the cause of chuche bestowed upon them by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and thus further strengthen Chongnyon organisationally and ideologically and achieve greater innovative successes in the patriotic activities for the reunification of the country and its prosperity and development, says the paper.

Peace Institute Deputy Interviewed at Tokyo Forum

SK2005055692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0532 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo May 19 (KNS-KCNA)—Choe U-chin, vice-director of the disarmament and peace institute of the DPRK, was interviewed by South Korean reporters in Tokyo on May 19 after participating in the "Forum on

the Question of the Korean Peninsula - Guarantee of Security in East Asia and Regional Cooperation".

Choe U-chin explained the present work of the north-south nuclear control joint committee and construction of nuclear facilities in the northern half of Korea. He declared in explicit terms that the DPRK has neither will nor capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons, stressing that the Korean peninsula should be turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone as soon as possible.

Since the nuclear inspection problem between the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency has entered the final stage, simultaneous inspection should be made of the North and the South and it should be an overall inspection involving the nuclear weapons and bases of the U.S. forces in South Korea, he said.

Japanese Efforts To Amass Plutonium Highlighted

SK1905155092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 17 May 92

[Text] Japan, which is carrying out its nuclear program under the pretext of our nonexistent nuclear development, is accumulating more nuclear material than it needs. As a result, Japan is becoming a nuclear threat to our country and other Asian countries, determined to arm itself with nuclear weapons and carry out a nuclear program.

Various countries' newspapers are greatly worried about Japan's maneuvers to arm itself with nuclear weapons, and they strongly denounce such actions.

(LE NOUVEAU QUOTIDIEN), a Swiss newspaper, in an article entitled "Japan's Adventure To Use Plutonium for Military Purposes," points out that opinion-making circles denounce the Japanese Government's nuclear-military plan and that the international community is worried about it. The newspaper states Japan is carrying out its plutonium project at great risk.

Referring to the Japanese Government's large-scale plutonium project, Japan's ASAHI SHIMBUN reveals that Japan is planning to possess approximately 120 tons of plutonium by 2010. The newspaper says 120 tons is greater than the amount of plutonium the United States or the former Soviet Union each have produced and used so far to manufacture nuclear weapons. From this, one can estimate how large an amount 120 tons is. Although Japan, which already has a large amount of plutonium, says plutonium will be used only for peaceful purposes, Japan will pose a great threat to Asian countries that have the bitter experience of suffering from Japan's aggression.

AZI, a Romanian newspaper, points out: Japan, the victim of two nuclear attacks in 1945, has become a country that uses great amounts of nuclear energy. The fact that Japan has stored a large amount of plutonium, a basic element in manufacturing nuclear weapons, creates great worries at home and abroad.

THE STAR, a Malaysian newspaper, stresses that Japan constitutes the greatest threat in the Asian-Pacific region in the 1990's. The newspaper points out that the West must stop selling weapons to Japan.

THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, a U.S. newspaper, states that Japan is carrying out its reprocessing project, the largest in the world, while asking other countries to take measures for nuclear nonproliferation. The paper points out that Japan is not thinking of only the peaceful use of plutonium.

(THE SAMACHAR POST), an Indian newspaper, in an article entitled "Japan's Plan To Arm Itself With Nuclear Weapons Must Be Frustrated," points out: Today, when the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula has been adopted and progress is being made in denuclearization, Japan's attempt to arm itself with nuclear weapons greatly worries the Korean people and people of various world countries. Japan's nuclear potential constitutes a threat not only to the Korean nation but also to the people of Asia and the world. Anyone who treasures peace and stability in the world must heighten vigilance against Japan's attempt to arm itself with nuclear weapons and join in international efforts to prevent Japan's nuclear threats.

THE MUSLIM, a Pakistani newspaper, reveals that Japan has used the issue of nuclear inspection on the Korean peninsula as a pretext for its nuclear weapons development and is dreaming about becoming a nuclear power. THE NATION, another Pakistani newspaper, reveals that Japan's true intention is to push ahead with its plan to arm itself with nuclear weapons under the pretext of the dangerousness of Korea's nuclear development.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, a U.S. newspaper, points out that even though Japan says it will use plutonium for peaceful purposes, the amount of plutonium it has bought far exceeds the amount necessary for peaceful purposes. The paper stresses that an inspection procedure stricter that the International Atomic Energy Agency's must be applied to Japan, which has accumulated a large amount of plutonium.

Alleged Forgery of Korea-Japan Treaties Examined

SK2105024692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Factual data has recently been made public proving that the five Ulsa treaties and the Chongmi Seven-Article Treaty were false and that Japan fabricated them. A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry answered questions from a Korean Central News Agency reporter about this:

As reported, it has been learned that the five Ulsa treaties of 1905 and the Chongmi Seven-Article Treaty of 1907 that the Japanese imperialists forced the Korean empire to sign

were forged documents. Historical data stored in Kyujanggak [Library of Choson Dynasty court documents] of Seoul National University show that the five Ulsa treaties could not be concluded because the emperor of old Korea refused to approve, sign, and seal them and that the emperor of old Korea's signatures were forged on the Chongmi Seven-Article Treaty and all the bills promulgated under this treaty. If this is true, it will be a surprising, big incident. Opening to the public treaties between states after forging them cannot be found in any other country's history. However, the Japanese authorities still say that the treaties were legal and insist that the legacies of the past must be liquidated based on these treaties. This shows a basic lack of conscience and moral.

Regarding Japan's unreasonable contention, many countries question the Japanese people's moral viewpoint. Nothing can justify all the crimes the Japanese imperialists have committed in Korea. The government of our republic has insisted that the treaties the Japanese imperialists forced the old Korea to sign were illegal and null and void.

South Korean media and people from all walks of life are saying that the five Ulsa treaties and the Chongmi Seven-Article Treaty are fake, are not legally binding, and are null and void. They also demand that the treaty the South Korean authorities signed with Japan in 1965 and the liquidation of the legacies of the past between South Korea and Japan be reconsidered. This is a just voice demanding the protection of the nation's rights and interests.

The South Korean authorities must learn a lesson from the toadyist, treacherous acts of their predecessors and must not commit treacherous acts like this again in their relations with Japan.

We are paying attention to the information recently disclosed. We have been conducting complete investigations into the treaties Japan forced the old Korea to sign and will take appropriate measures when the actual state of things is revealed.

Article Lauds Benefits of Ideological Unity

SK2105053292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0501 GMT 21 May 92

["Ideological Unity Based on One Revolutionary Idea Is Essential Demand of Socialist Society"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 21 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il expounded the unique idea that ideological unity is the essential demand of socialist society, thus providing a guideline to develop socialist society and bring it to completion, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article. It recalls that Comrade Kim Chong-il propounded the unique idea that achieving ideological unity is the essential demand of socialist society in his classical work "The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party".

The article quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Equipping all the members of society with one revolutionary idea and achieving ideological unity on this basis is the essential demand of socialist society and the most important task for the successful building of socialism".

It continues:

It is possible only in socialist society that people achieve ideological unity by equipping themselves with one idea. All the members of socialist society can be equipped with the communist revolutionary idea and the unity and cohesion of the whole society can be achieved on its basis because all the people share a common goal and common interests in aspiring after socialism and communism.

Achieving ideological unity is the essential demand of socialist society because it is a fundamental condition to guide the popular masses to maintain its position and play its role as masters and it gives full play to collectivism.

It is particularly because socialist society is a society in which the leader, the party and the masses form a socio-political organism linked together by one lifeline.

Unity and cohesion of the leader, the party and the masses are an inherent aspect of socialist society and the basic source of its indestructibility and vitality.

If the might of the driving force of the revolution is to be steadily increased, it is imperative to constantly equip the people with the revolutionary idea and strengthen unity in ideology and purpose.

The chuche idea is the banner of the people's cause of independence, the banner of socialism.

When the people are firmly armed with the chuche idea they become conscious of being the master of revolution and unite more closely for the victory of the cause of independence.

South Korea

IAEA Team To Inspect North's Nuclear Sites

SK2105080392 Seoul TONG-A ILBO
in Korean 21 May 92 p 1

[Report by correspondent Choe Maeng-ho from Vienna]

[Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency's first inspection of nuclear facilities and nuclear materials in North Korea is to begin on 25 May.

An IAEA official said: Since it is our first time in North Korea, the inspection team is composed of six specialists with differing expertise. The inspection will last two weeks.

The same official added: Using a checklist, the inspectors will focus on an overall inspection of nuclear facilities and nuclear materials reported by North Korea and on facilities for radioactive chemical experimentation, which are presumed to be nuclear fuel reprocessing facilities.

Government Answers DPRK Tirade on Flag Issue

SK2005125992 Seoul YONHAP in English 1248 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea expressed regret Wednesday at North Korea's sending Tuesday of a message defending radical students in the South trying to display the North Korean flag in campus activities.

"We cannot help but express deep regret at the absurd accusations and unjust demand you have laid with regard to our internal affairs," said a telephone message addressed by Yi Tong-pok, South Korean spokesman for the inter-Korean prime ministers' conference, to his North Korean counterpart An Pyong-su.

"Your hackneyed repetition of such propagandistic attitudes would not only hamper the improvement of inter-Korean relations and also cause us to doubt your side's will to implement the basic agreement," he said.

Yi said, "should your side's attitude went unchecked, it would bring about a consequence in which the historic inter-Korean accord might be jeopardized."

In a message addressed to Yi Tuesday, An defended the students' bids to display the North Korean flag in their on-campus functions as "a noble desire to create an atmosphere of reconcilation and unity of the people."

Chief Delegate to Liaison Office Discusses Work

SK2005031792 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 19 May 92 p 4

[By reporter Kim In-chol]

[Text] "I have been doing the same work for 20 years so it does not seem like a new job for me. However, I am honored to have been appointed the first head of the South side's liaison office at a time when progress is being made in South-North dialogue and when there is a great deal of unfinished work."

Son In-kyo (47), who has been in charge of liaison work between the South and North for 20 years, since he first set foot in the Office of South-North Korean Dialogue in 1972, was calm as he remarked on his appointment as the first head of the South side's liaison office.

The opening of the South-North liaison office on 18 May implies that the South-North agreement has now moved closer to implementation.

According to Mr. Son, until now the function of liaison between the South and North has been carried out through intermediary organizations such as the Red Cross. He says that the official inauguration of the South-North liaison office has great significance in that it is the first official organization between the authorities of the South and North.

Mr. Son stated that the liaison office will be in charge of contacts between the two sides, upon authorization under the South-North agreement, and will carry out liaison work requested by both sides. He also foresaw that the liaison office will be in charge of exchanges and will assist in contacts between the two sides. It will also carry out functions such as human and material exchanges and cooperation, linking mail services and communications, and carrying out various meetings and contacts and it is expected that these will increase with the effectuation of the agreement. It is also expected that the liaison office will play a role in linking the severed relations between the South and North and in finding a new point of contact.

An increased role and function for the South-North liaison office can be seen in future plans for the liaison office revealed by Mr. Son.

Mr. Son said: "Fourteen employees including one head, one deputy head, and 12 liaison officials will be permanently stationed there working in shifts. At times we may even have to stay up all night." Their duties will be to hold discussions between the two sides through direct contact and through a direct telephone line installed between the liaison offices.

He also said: "As agreed between the two sides there might be a possibility of establishing a joint liaison office in Panmunjom." He stated that he has great expectations for frequent meetings between the heads of the liaison offices.

It was learned that official operation of the South-North liaison office will start with the inspection of the direct telephone line at 0900 on 19 May. The liaison office will be opened from 0900 to 1600 on weekdays and from 0900 to 1200 on Saturday's. On Sunday's and holidays the office will be closed, but, upon agreement, it may open some Sunday's and holidays.

At the seventh round of South-North high-level talks both sides agreed that branch offices can be established when agreed upon by both sides. It seems that the function of the South-North liaison office can be further expanded in conformity with the progress in South-North relations.

Reunification Cost Estimated at $50 Billion Yearly

SK2105033492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0203 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 21 (YONHAP)—Korea will be reunited by the year 2000, possibly even before 1995,

and South Korea will absorb North Korea at an annual cost of 50 billion to 61 billion U.S. dollars, a British report forecasts.

North Korea will crumble very quickly when the time comes, like the East-bloc countries, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) says in a 110-page report made available Thursday by the Finance Ministry.

North Korea's economic development was noteworthy until 1973, when its per capita gross national product surpassed that of South Korea. Kim Il-song had the leadership and authority, but he failed to execute the necessary economic reforms, the EIU says.

His efforts for modernization were not modern, it says. And revitalizing North Korea's economy will require massive injections of capital, mostly from South Korea and Japan.

Reunification, the EIU predicts, will come spontaneously, not gradually, by the year 2000 at the latest. There is a high possibility that it will come by 1995, or even before.

South Koreans will want gradual reunification, but the next South Korean Government will have to take care of the North Korean economy whether it wants to or not, says the report issued in April.

It is impossible to predict how North Korea will crumble, it says, but the results will be the same however it happens—one side will absorb the other as in the case of Germany.

The British institute, affiliated with THE ECONOMIST, a weekly news magazine, estimated the highest reunification cost so far. Jardine Fleming's Seoul branch predicted in late 1990 that reunification would cost between 190 billion and 200 billion dollars for the first 10 years.

The Korea Development Institute predicted 250 billion to 300 billion dollars for the 10 year period.

EIU says the cost will be 500 billion to 610 billion dollars.

North Korea will require 9 billion to 10 billion dollars of investment every year, 6 billion to 16 billion dollars of monetary assistance and 35 billion dollars for revitalizing its industry, the report says.

It says South Korea can bear all the necessary financial burden.

Once Korea is united, the conservatives and the ruling camp will virtually dominate politics, as in Germany, it says.

Reunified Korea will emerge as a strong power in the long term, equipped with abundant natural resources and labor and an expanded market, but it will find it difficult to surpass Japan, the report predicts.

Trade Deficit With U.S. Growing Rapidly

SK2105014292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 May 92 p 8

[Text] Korea's trade deficit with the United States is rapidly increasing due to the weakening price competitiveness of such major export items as textiles, footwear and toys as well as the slump of the U.S. economy.

According to statistics from the Trade-Industry Ministry, Korea suffered a $965 million trade setback with the United States on a customs clearance basis in the first quarter of this year.

The figure showed a $630 million increase from the $335 million shortfall recorded all of last year.

Korea has been experiencing trade losses with the United States, its largest trading partner, since last year for the first time in the past decade.

In 1987, Korea enjoyed an all-time high surplus of $9.553 billion in trade with the United States, which triggered a wave of conflict between Seoul and Washington.

The surplus dropped to $8.647 billion in 1988, $4.728 billion in 1989 and $2.418 billion in 1990.

During the January-March period of this year, exports to the United States amounted to $3.951 billion, accounting for 23.2 percent of Korea's global shipments. The comparative ratios were 38.7 percent in 1987, 35.3 percent in 1988, 33.1 percent in 1989, 29.8 percent in 1990 and 25.8 percent last year.

In the meantime, imports from the United States in the first quarter of the year stood at $4.915 billion including $560 million worth of commercial aircraft.

The ministry predicted that exports to the United States this year would reach around $20 billion compared with $18.559 billion registered last year.

However, the ministry based the forecast on its assumption that the U.S. economy would grow 2-3 percent and the United States would restrict imports from China and other developing countries with which it has been experiencing trade setbacks.

The improvement of international competitiveness of Korean manufacturing industries was postulated as another major factor.

Korea's yearly exports to the United States hit its highest at $21.404 billion in 1988, followed by $20.639 billion in 1989, $19.360 billion in 1990, $18.559 billion last year and $18.311 billion in 1987.

Meanwhile, Korea has been suffering from trade shortfalls with the world since 1990, wiping out surpluses accumulated between 1987 and 89 for the first time in its trade history.

Last year, Korea witnessed the highest trade setback of $9.655 billion.

Taipei Stance Not Affecting Push for PRC Ties

SK2105014892 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 May 92 p 2

[Text] South Korea will push the establishment of diplomatic relations with China despite Taiwan's opposition, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said yesterday.

Seoul will maintain "friendly" relations with Taipei after setting up ties with China, he said.

Asked when Seoul and Beijing would be able to set up full ties, Yi said, "I believe that doing so will have a positive impact on the situation in Northeast Asia and if the current pace of bilateral relations is kept up, it will be possible in the not-so-distant future."

He said Seoul will not hurry to establish diplomatic ties with China, but he stressed it is "important that if circumstances are ripe, both countries should seize the opportunity."

He was speaking at a lecture meeting sponsored by Tosan Academy, a research body to commemorate the late independence fighter An Chang-ho.

Taiwan has been lobbying hard to keep Seoul from normalizing ties with Beijing at an early date.

Diplomatic relations between South Korea and China will work positively in bringing North Korea out of its isolation as the diplomatic normalization between South Korea and Russia has helped North Korea open up, Minister Yi said.

The lingering Cold War on the Korean Peninsula and North Korea's continued isolation are certainly desirable to none of the three countries—South and North Korea and China, he said.

"We don't want to isolate north Korea in pursuing improvement in relations with China," the minister said.

Yi said North Korea's trade with China was limited to $600 million last year, compared with South Korea's $5.8 billion. Beijing-Pyongyang economic relations are expected to remain stagnant in the future, he said.

Yi said China can play an important role in helping North Korea become a responsible member of the international community by giving up its nuclear weapons development program and promoting exchanges and cooperation with South Korea.

North Korea will be able to improve ties with the United States and Japan and open economic ties with South Korea and Western countries only after it has chosen to open up, he said.

Yi expected to further discuss Seoul-Beijing relations with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Bangkok this September during the fourth ministerial conference for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and in New York in September or October during a U.N. General Assembly session.

The minister said Seoul has promised to maintain "friendly and cooperative" relations with Taiwan after it establishes diplomatic ties with mainland China when a Taiwanese presidential envoy visited Seoul early this year.

He expected economic relations between Seoul and Taipei to increase because of the ongoing six-year infrastructure plan in Taiwan. Two-way trade between the two countries amounted to some $3 billion a year between 1989 to 1991.

Tariff Raised To Stem Flow of Chinese Goods

SK2005225192 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 May 92 p 8

[By staff reporter Kim Su-yong]

[Text] As recently as a few years ago, Korean buyers ran into a few Chinese-made items such as bamboo products at department stores and Chinese of Korean descent illegally peddled Chinese medicines, which they brought with them on a visit to their motherland, on streets.

But Chinese products ranging from such handcrafted items as wooden chopsticks, toothpicks and umbrellas to garments and toys have deluged the Korean market since last year, contributing to a widening trade deficit in favor of China.

On the international market, Korean products have been increasingly driven out by cheap Chinese items, according to business sources.

Official figures show that Korea imported $3.44 billion worth of Chinese products in 1991 and exported $1.00 billion worth of Korean products, posting a trade deficit of $2.43 billion [figures as published]. Indirect export to China via third countries like Hong Kong was not counted.

The trade deficit is unlikely to decline this year since there is no sign of a letup in the importation of Chinese products.

Authorities reported that Korea's imports of Chinese products were worth $940 million in the first three months of the year, up 53.7 percent over a year earlier. But Korea exported only $410 million worth of products to China in the January-March period of this year.

An upsurge in Chinese products has led to many problems.

First, mostly unnecessary products, not indispensable ones, have flooded into the domestic market.

Suprisingly, toothpicks worth $2.83 million came from China last year, accounting for nearly 70 percent of imports of the item.

Korea imported $13 million of wooden chopsticks from Asia, of which 90 percent were Chinese products.

The nation posted importation of cotton gloves worth $3.55 million, sea bream worth $12.27 million, bracken worth $13.49 million and sea snail worth $2.07 million.

Inexpensive, low-quality Chinese products have eaten away the local market, causing small Korean firms to shut down or suspend operations.

Chinese-made cotton gloves are sold for 300 won a pair, compared to Korean products priced at 800 won to 1,000 won. As a result, many of the 50 or so glove producers were forced to be closed, and the existing ones have run below 50 percent of capacity, according to business sources.

What is more serious is the fact that inexpensive low-quality Chinese products, mostly agricultural items, are fraudulently labelled as expensive, high-quality Korean ones, disrupting domestic transaction order and damaging local industries.

Importers have been required to indicate documents showing the origin of country on imported agricultural products as a part of the Korean government's efforts to prevent cheating.

In the latest action to protect local industries from an upsurge of imports, the government early this month raised tariffs on 20 imported items up to 100 percent.

Duties imposed on tropical fish, sea bream and oak mushrooms have climbed up to 100 percent.

Pak Chung-sik, director of the Northeast Asia Economic and Industrial Research Institute, said upward readjustment in tariffs levied on some agricultural and light-industry items imported from China has done little to reduce the trade balance in Korea's favor and the action is feared to strain economic ties between Korea and China which have been growing at a fast pace.

He said the government should have imposed non-tariff barriers such as tougher customs clearance and stiffer sanitary inspections on imported products, rather than raise tariffs.

Kuril Islands Dispute Hampering Deep-Sea Fishing

SK2105014692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 May 92 p 8

[Text] Korean deep-sea fisheries firms are complaining that a territorial dispute between Russia and Japan involving the Kuril Islands has been preventing them from fishing in Russian waters, dealing a blow to the fisheries industry, business sources said yesterday.

In mid-February, Korea and Russia agreed to allow the catching of 70,000 tons of fish with payment of fees in three areas of Russia's economic zone in the North Pacific—east of Sakhalin, south of the Kuril Islands, and in the waters off Siberia—for this year.

Officials at the Korea Deep-sea Fisheries Association (KDFA) said fishing near the Kuril Islands has been delayed for more than two months under the apparent influence of the Japanese government.

As Russia agreed to permit Koran fishing boats to operate in waters southeast of the Kuril Islands, the Japanese government protested to the Korean government about the agreement through diplomatic channels, they noted.

The season for catching fish in Russian waters started in March, but Korean fishing boats have not yet been given permission to operate in the disputed area, partly because of the territorial issue between Russia and Japan, according to the officials.

An official at the National Fisheries Administration said Korea submitted an application for fishing in the Russian waters last month, but fishing permits have not yet been issued.

Asked about the territorial dispute, the official said Korea has nothing to do with the issue.

Japan expressed displeasure about Korea's signing of the fishing accord with Russia without consulting with Japan, saying that the four "northern" islands are their territory, reports said.

The islands, which had been occupied by the former Soviet Union after the end of World War II, still remain a thorny issue between Japan and Russia.

Fisheries experts concur that it is nonsense to dispute the fishing agreement signed between Korea and Russia, but it is a matter for Japan to be dealt with Russia directly.

They noted that Japan has engaged itself in fishing with the payment of fees to Russia in the disputed waters, even though there are conditions attached, saying that the deal would not infringe on Japanese rights in the "northern territories."

Korea, Japan and Russia were close to reaching an agreement on solving the dispute during working-level officials' talks, which will now likely be reached during a tripartite meeting slated for next week in Moscow, said sources at the Foreign Ministry.

The option now under study is to allow Korean fishing boats to fish in areas north of the islands instead of the disputed fishing district.

Vice Minister Leaves for Conference on CIS Aid

SK2105063792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0449 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 21 (YONHAP)—Vice Foreign Minister No Chang-hui left for Lisbon at the head of the Korean delegation Thursday to attend the second international conference to aid the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The conference comes four months after the first one in Washington, D.C., and runs from Saturday through Sunday.

Participants are expected to hear about the economic reforms of each former Soviet republic and to discuss more aid through world bodies, according to the Foreign Ministry.

South Korea, the United States, European Community countries, Japan, Canada and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are taking part in the conference.

No will fly to Paris May 26, after the Lisbon meeting, for policy consultations with his French counterpart Serge Boidevaix [as received], the Ministry said.

Ships Leave Port To Join Rimpac Naval Maneuvers

SK2005042092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0250 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Chinhae, May 20 (YONHAP)—Two South Korean naval escort ships carrying 330 officers and men left this naval port Wednesday to take part in Rimpac (Rim of the Pacific) '92, a biannual naval exercise involving Pacific-rim nations.

The domestically built warships, weighing 1,500 tons each, will take part in the exercise in Californian and Hawaiian waters from June 19 to July 28, according to naval authorities.

The Pacific rim exercise has been conducted at the initiative of the U.S. navy since 1971 with the participation of Pacific-rim countries as Canada, Australia and Japan in an effort to improve combined naval operations capabilities and to maintain major sea lanes in the event of hostilities in the Pacific.

This is Korea's second participation in the exercise following one in 1990.

No Tae-u Meets With Thai Crown Prince

SK2005065492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0426 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u met with Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon of Thailand at Chongwadae on Wednesday and they exchanged views on mutual concerns over lunch.

No said that he was satisfied with the improving relations, especially in the fields of investment and trade, between Korea and Thailand, extolling the rapid economic growth of Thailand under the leadership of King Phumiphon Adunyadet.

The prince, who arrived Tuesday at the invitation of Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, is scheduled to visit the Korea Military Academy and the truce village of Panmunjom during his six-day stay.

Chong Chu-yong Criticizes Political Opponents

SK2105014392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 May 92 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Chong's Predictions"]

[Text] UNP [Unification National Party] chairman Chong Chu-yong, who sometimes likens himself to Ross Perot, a businessman-turned political rising star in the United States, has boldly predicted that U.S. President George Bush would lose his re-election bid due to "poor achievements" in foreign relations as well as the domestic arena.

"Bush has failed in domestic and overseas affairs as well. He is said to have distinguished himself in foreign relations and he actually did very well in the Gulf War but he made mistakes in his finishing touches," he said in a chat with newsmen over lunch Tuesday.

"These faults, I am sure, will prevent him from being elected again," he said. Chong did not go further and predict who will win.

Chong, also a construction and shipbuilding magnate, gave searing accounts of local politicians aspiring for the December presidential election along with him.

"He has no brain to be in politics," Chong said of Kim Yong-sam, the presidential standardbearer of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], who was once accused of lacking logical reasoning, profound knowledge in economic and social matters and eloquence.

"What has Kim Yong-sam done for our people and the nation? He jogs at dawn, works out in a fitness center in the morning, idles away the day and drinks at night. What has he produced so far?," he added, when asked if he is on good terms with the political leader.

His criticism of Kim Tae-chung was more bitter, taking issue with his old ideological bent to socialism.

"Whoever wins the presidential game, we can be assured of his political orientation no matter how we believe in their ability. He will try his best to contribute to our nation. But we know nothing about Kim Tae-chung's ideology. We don't know whether he will bring us to China or even North Korea."

Russia To Grant Asylum to North Korean Student

SK2105095792 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 21 May 92 p 2

[REUTER/YONHAP from Moscow]

[Text] Russia announced on 20 May that it will grant political asylum to Kim Myong-se, a North Korean student now staying with a South Korean person in Moscow and seeking refuge in Russia.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman (Sergey Yatsrchempskiy) officially referred to the identification of the student and said that the North Korean side was demanding his expulsion.

According to this spokesman, Kim was studying at Moscow University until this past 7 May when he sought political asylum in Russia mainly because of religious reasons.

Burma

Bangladesh Blamed for Delay in Repatriation

BK2105055692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Officials from Burma in charge of the repatriation from Bangladesh and relief officials from Bangladesh held a coordination meeting at the guesthouse in Teknaf, Cox's Bazaar district in Bangladesh at 1435 today to discuss systematic scrutiny and the reception of Burmese nationals who fled to Bangladesh .

It has been learned that although the five reception centers in Burma have been prepared to receive the returnees since 15 May, so far there have been no repatriation due to delays in sending the lists and in the scrutiny process by the country on the other side.

Elder Son Allowed To Visit Aung San Suu Kyi

BK1805151292 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] Mr. Alexander John Christopher Aris, alias Maung Myint San Aung, the elder son of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, arrived in Rangoon at 1545 via a Thai International Airways plane to meet with his mother. It is learned that he arrived at his mother's residence at 1710.

Authorities Release More Political Detainees

BK2105044292 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] U Kyaw Min, who served as a member of the Central Executive Committee of the National League for Democracy and against whom action was taken and detained in May 1991; and Ye Min Naing, alias Khin Maung Lin alias Aung Zeya, who served as chairman of the Democratic Party for New Society and against whom action was taken and who was detained in August 1989; have been released today from the Insein Central Jail in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC].

Similarly, five women and one man against whom action was taken in accordance with the existing laws and who were serving sentences were also released from the Insein Central Jail today in accordance with the Declaration No. 11/92 of the SLORC.

Responsible officials from the Directorate of the Defense Services Intelligence visited the Insein Central Jail today and met with those who were to be released and read out to them the Declaration No. 11/92 of the SLORC and the order of the home affairs minister regarding the reduction of the jail terms imposed.

Those to be released were then permitted to meet their families and were allowed to leave.

Convicts Released After Army Service

498 in Mandalay

BK1705165792 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 17 May 92

[Text] As a reward from the state, 498 convicted persons who have worked for national defense hand-in-hand with members of the Defense Services, were released from various work camps in the Mandalay Division jail zone at 0800 on 15 May. Their sentences have been commuted under Article 401/1 of the Criminal Procedure Code and they were granted amnesty.

U Kyaw Tun, director of prisons of Mandalay Division, explained the gesture by the state and the order of the Ministry of Home Affairs to the convicted persons and delivered words of advice. The convicted persons were later released and sent home by the authorities concerned.

212 in Mon State

BK1605142192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 16 May 92

[Text] As a gesture of reward by the state, 212 convicted persons, who have worked hand in hand with the members of the Defense Services for national defense, had been released from Moulmein Jail at 0630 on 14 May. Their sentences have been commuted under Article 401/1 of the Criminal Procedure Code and were granted amnesty.

U Pe Myint, director of prisons of the Mon State, explained the state gesture and the Ministry of Home Affairs order to the convicted persons. After words of advice given by Lieutenant General Thein Aung, general staff officer, grade one, of the Southeast Military Command and U Kyee Shwe, police superintendent, the convicted persons were released and sent home by the authorities concerned.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Trade Opportunities With CIS States Viewed

BK1905175192 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 19 May 92

[Station commentary by Bosco de Cruz]

[Text] Malaysia's Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is now in Moscow on an official visit, the first by an ASEAN foreign minister since the breakup of the former Soviet Union.

During his stay in Russia he will hold important discussions with his counterpart Andrey Kozyrev and other officials aimed at identifying trade and investment potential between the two countries. Datuk Abdullah will also be visiting the Muslim-majority republics of

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan on a similar mission. He is accompanied by a large delegation of Malaysian officials and private sector representatives.

The visit by the Malaysian mission is a significant one and rather takes place at a time when the Commonwealth of Independent States, CIS, are grappling with the vital task of restoring and restructuring their respective economies.

Malaysia has offered to extend its technical assistance to the newly independent republics. Its expertise and experience in economic development will be most beneficial in their reconstruction program, especially in areas like land development and agriculture, banking, and infrastructural facilities. And there are vast opportunities for investment in those countries.

The Malaysian businessmen's meetings with their counterparts in the CIS will give both sides an idea of what fields are the most suitable for possible joint venture projects in the future. Some of the areas that can be exploited are in the housing, energy, primary commodities, manufacturing, and tourism industries. There is a vast knowledge and information that is at the disposal of both parties that can be (?truthfully) exchanged and effectively put to use for their mutual benefit.

On a mutual encouraging development, that has emerged at the very start of the mission's visit, is the announcement that both Malaysia and Russia have agreed to honor all agreements and investment links that had been forged between Malaysia and the former Soviet Union. The two had signed about seven agreements mostly on trade between 1967 and (?1988). A practical move to ensure that the programs previously agreed upon are effectively implemented would be for the two countries to set up a joint commission to study new mechanisms that can be adopted to bring about beneficial results.

The efforts of the CIS towards economic reformation offer Malaysia greater opportunity for the enhancement of trade and economic relations. The trade volume between Malaysia and the then Soviet Union had stood at US$ 281 million in 1989, but dropped to $212 million in 1990 and decreased further to US$ 126.5 million last year. The drop was brought about by lower imports from Malaysia during the period when the Soviet Union was in the process of disintegration.

Now that days are returning to normal, there is hope and confidence that the exchange of trade delegations, and official contacts like the current Malaysian mission to the CIS will bring about even greater bilateral relations than there had been before.

Singapore

PRC Bankers Delegation Arrives for 5-Day Visit

BK1505142292 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 13 May 92 p 39

[Text] A top-level delegation of Chinese bankers now in Singapore for a five-day visit hopes to get to know local bankers and tap the financial know-how developed here.

The 10-member team, headed by Mr. Chen Yuan who is deputy governor of the Chinese central bank, People's Bank of China (PBOC), and son of Mr Chen Yun, considered to be China's second most powerful leader, is the first-ever by a team representing all the biggest commercial banks in China.

At a reception hosted by the Association of Banks in Singapore [ABS] for the delegation on Monday night, Mr Chen said: "With this kind of contacts, cooperation between the People's Bank as well as other commercial banks in China with the other major international banks will be enhanced, resulting in more businesses."

He added that the further opening up of China has brought the PBOC into the world community of banks.

Besides Mr Chen, the delegation included Mr. Zhou Daojiong, president of the People's Construction Bank of China; Mr Huang Yujun, deputy president of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC); Mr. He Linxiang, deputy president of the Agriculture Bank of China; Mr Yang Huiqiu, deputy president of the Bank of China (BOC); and Mr Chen Hengping, deputy president of Bank of Communications.

The importance accorded to the visiting delegation was highlighted by the fact that the reception was attended by 140 top-level corporate guests including senior bankers from all the Big Four local banks and foreign banks with operations here.

ABS's chairman, Mr Ernest Wong, said in his welcoming speech that the five-day visit by the Chinese delegation gave bankers here an "opportunity to make contact at the highest levels and with some of the largest banks in China."

He noted that some banks were thinking of further expansion of their operations in China while others are contemplating new ones.

Mr. Wong, who is also United Overseas Bank's president, added: "Who knows, these contacts might lead to contracts."

Cambodia

Foreign Ministry 'Regrets' Bloodshed in Thailand

BK2105031692 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0114 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 21 May (SPK)—Cambodia "regrets" the recent bloodshed in Thailand and wishes its neighbor's crisis would be resolved without new violence, the Foreign Ministry in Phnom Penh declared on Tuesday.

"As a friend and neighbor, we regret the bloodshed and we wish the crisis would be resolved without new bloodshed," Hor Namhong stated to AFP [Agence France-Press], underlining that this is Thailand's internal affair.

More than 50 people were killed in two nights of violence in Bangkok when thousands of people staged demonstrations against Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun.

The Cambodian foreign minister held that the events would not have "direct repercussions" on the Cambodian peace process.

This crackdown, however, generated a demonstration staged by four non-Cambodian people, including two Americans, an Indian, and a Japanese Buddhist monk, in front of the Thai embassy in Phnom Penh on the afternoon of 19 May.

Prince Chakkrapong Activities in Vietnam Reported

BK2005130392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] A delegation of the State of Cambodia [SOC] led by Deputy Prime Minister Prince Norodom Chakkrapong ended its visit to the SRV and returned home safely on 15 May. At the invitation of the Vietnamese Government, the delegation paid a five-day visit to Vietnam from 11 to 15 May.

During its stay in Vietnam, Prince Norodom Chakkrapong and members of his delegation laid a wreath in tribute to the late Chairman Ho Chi Minh and visited the latter's residence and office. They were cordially received by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers.

In addition, the SOC delegation also held a working session with its Vietnamese counterpart, led by Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers. The two sides exchanged information about developments in their respective countries. Nguyen Khanh gave an account of the recent activities that Vietnam was engaged in which were aimed at expanding the relations of friendship and cooperation with countries in the world, especially the states in Southeast Asia.

Prince Norodom Chakkrapong extolled Vietnam for its achievements and highly valued its foreign policy of peace and cooperation, which constitutes an important contribution to the prevailing tendency for peace and cooperation and which favors regional progress. The prince also talked about recent developments in Cambodia, especially the application of the Paris accord on Cambodia and the national reunification process.

The Vietnamese deputy premier highly esteemed the Cambodian people for the successes they had achieved in the implementation of the peace agreement and in the course of national reunification under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council. Nguyen Khanh reaffirmed that Vietnam would scrupulously respect the Paris peace accord, which constitutes an active contribution to the fundamental respect for Cambodia's independence and sovereignty and the interests of the countries involved.

The two sides stressed the importance of the consolidation and expansion of the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the interests of each country in keeping with the prevailing tendency in the world and region.

On the Paris accord, the two sides urged all countries concerned to strive to make progress with the aim of promoting the execution of the Paris accord, thereby allowing the Cambodian people to achieve national reunification and to exercise their rights in free general elections so as to rebuild a Cambodia with independence, sovereignty, peaceful coexistence, and nonalignment, thereby promoting peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in the region and the world.

Prince Chakkrapong invited vice premier Nguyen Khanh to pay an official friendship visit to Cambodia. The former accepted the invitation with pleasure.

While staying in Vietnam, the delegation also visited various economic and cultural centers in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Regime Naturalizing Vietnamese Before Elections

BK2105053992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] According to reports from all districts and provinces across Cambodia, over 1 million Vietnamese citizens in Cambodia are being naturalized by the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh, and this process should be completed ahead of the holding of elections. The reports added that the Vietnamese aggressors' goals in the naturalization of their people are:

1. To metamorphose Cambodians into Vietnamese as they previously did in Laos;

2. To allow over 1 million Vietnamese people in Cambodia to vote for the regime they have installed in the country, because they have unambiguously realized that the regime is being isolated from the Cambodian people.

The people do not want the Vietnamese aggressors and their accomplices who have killed the Cambodian nation and people for 14 years. The people in rural areas and cities and inside and outside the country vehemently object to the most criminal activities committed by the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh faction.

Article 8, paragraph 4, chapter 1 of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord clearly stipulates that all categories of Vietnamese forces, advisers, and military personnel in Cambodia and their weapons, ammunition, and war equipment should be withdrawn from the country under the supervision and control of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and the Supreme National Council [SNC], and the Vietnamese aggressor forces with their war equipment should not return to Cambodia.

Vietnamese 'Aggressors' Said Living in Phnom Penh

BK2105051892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] According to reports from Phnom Penh residents and those who often traveled to the capital city, a growing number of Vietnamese aggressor troops have been sighted now living in Phnom Penh city. They mostly take up residence along the banks of Tonle Sap River; in the Russei Keo suburb; at the O Russei, New, and Depot markets; in the Chba Ampeou and Takhmau suburbs, and so on.

Those Vietnamese aggressors have reportedly disguised themselves as civilians and have worked as pedicab operators, bicycle repairers, motorcycle and car mechanics, sellers of radios, televisions, and cars, and so on.

The reports added that the Phnom Penh residents know very well those Vietnamese aggressors' addresses and their names both in Vietnamese and Cambodian. The people said that if anyone would want to see this, they would bring them to the places where those disguised Vietnamese aggressors are staying, provided that the climate in Phnom Penh is neutral and the Supreme National Council and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia become the true, singular sources of power in Cambodia.

This is the reality that the people have witnessed themselves, and is contrary to some statements that it has been six months since any document has indicated that the Vietnamese aggressors are still present in Cambodia. The people argue that those who say so are not neutral—they only want to legalize the Vietnamese invasion and occupation of Cambodia.

UN Urged To Seek Details on SRV Forces

BK2105015092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] On 19 May, His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council and head of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, wrote to H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN secretary general and head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], and H.E. Lieutenant General John Sanderson, commander of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia.

In his message, H.E. Khieu Samphan said: According to Article 6, Annex 2 of the accord on [words indistinct] and the start of phase two, Vietnam is duty-bound to provide information on:

1. The number of Vietnamese forces and troop organizations and positions in Cambodia;

2. An accurate list of where Vietnamese weapons, ammunition, and war equipment are stored in Cambodia; and;

3. Plans to withdraw Vietnamese forces from Cambodia including old and current plans, by clearly indicating the roads and border passes used for the pullout and the dates when the Vietnamese forces crossed and will cross out of the Cambodian border.

H.E. Khieu Samphan has asked H.E. Akashi and Lt. Gen. John Sanderson to demand all these details from Vietnam. He added that: I would like to remind both of you that both H.E. Son Sen and myself have repeatedly raised this issue at SNC meetings since it is a vitally important problem for the correct implementation of the accord. Availing myself of this opportunity, I would also like to inform Your Excellencies that the Cambodian people and national resistance forces, who have made great sacrifice for Cambodia to recover peace and independence, are waiting eagerly for the Vietnamese to provide the aforementioned information to UNTAC in compliance with the Paris accord.

Chea Sim: Charges of SRV Presence 'Pretext'

BK2105054692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0427 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 21—Cambodian People's Party [CPP] chairman Chea Sim said in Sihanouk Ville on May 18 that there were still some charges from the opposition parties on the Vietnamese troops' presence in Cambodia.

Chea Sim, who accompanied the prince for a three-day visit there, said some opposition parties still charged of the Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. However, he said, they failed to point out to Prince Sihanouk and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) where the troops were.

Chea Sim, who is also chairman of the National Assembly, considered the charges a pretext so as to carry out wicked plots.

"Though there are some obstacles in the implementation of the Paris peace agreement in Cambodia, I believe that under the figure-head of Prince Norodom Sihanouk we will reach the goal," he said.

"The CPP and the government of the State of Cambodia have been following the prince's policy of Sangkum Reas Niyum, Prince Sihanouk party, during his reign before 1970," Chea Sim added.

KPNLF Congress Opens 21 May; Name To Change

BK2105081492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh (AFP)—The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) opened a two-day congress Thursday, the first to be held in the capital in decades by a Cambodian opposition faction for decades. [sentence as received]

The aim of the congress is to transform the armed movement, led by former premier Son Sann, into a political party ahead of elections scheduled for next year.

From Friday, the KPNLF will be known as the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, Son Sann announced in his opening speech to thousands of delegates at the Olympic Stadium here.

It is the first time that any of the three factions which fought the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh regime for 13 years, has held a mass meeting in the Cambodian capital.

Troops belonging to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) provided security for the meeting.

Son Sann told AFP that provincial delegates and those from refugee camps in Thailand had been kept away by the Phnom Penh regime which, he alleged, had ordered obligatory exams and meetings for those students and officials wishing to attend the congress.

"Today, the era of armed conflict was ended," Son Sann told the delegates in his speech which he delivered in French for the benefit of the Phnom Penh diplomatic corps.

He invited all Cambodians "to end confrontation" and achieve "a durable national reconciliation" of the people.

He recalled that the KPNLF had been formed in 1980 "to defend the Cambodian people against their enemies—the Vietnamese, the Khmer Rouge and corrupt officials."

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978 to overthrow the Khmer Rouge and set up a puppet regime.

The Khmer Rouge, responsible for the death of more than one million people during their nearly four-year reign, provided the military backbone of the tripartite resistance coalition fighting the Phnom Penh regime.

The renamed KPNLF seeks to free Cambodia "from foreign occupation" and make it "a free, independent and neutral state."

Vietnam officially withdrew its troops in September 1989, paving the way for a peaceful resolution of the Cambodian conflict.

Sihanouk Visits Kompong Som 18 May

BK2005131592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 May 92

[Summary from poor reception] On the morning of 18 May, "His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, father of the nation, and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia," and his consort paid a visit to the people in Kompong Som city.

"At 0900, the helicopter carrying HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his consort landed safely at the airport of Sihanouk Ville." On hand to welcome the prince were "Khim Bo, member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of Kompong Som city's party committee and people's committee, and his wife; Nhim Vanda, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and minister of trade; Lieutenant General Sin Sen, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee, deputy minister for national security, and SNC member," as well as diplomats and envoys from the embassies accredited to Cambodia.

After "HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his consort as well as His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim and his wife" reviewed the honor guards of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces, listened to religious chants delivered by a council of Buddhist monks, thanked national and foreign guests for their presence, and took a seat at the podium, Khim Bo gave the following speech:

[Begin Khim Bo recording] We would like to welcome Your Royal Highness on your visit to the city and wish to praise you for your valuable contribution to national reunification and reconstruction. We also wish to voice support for the signing of "the agreement on the CPP's alliance with the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC]." We pledge to follow Your Royal Highness in your noble mission to achieve national reunification and peace and prosperity for Cambodia. "Your Royal Highness is requested to stay in the Cambodian motherland with your children and grandchildren forever so you can remain as a cool shade for the people, thereby promoting a renewed development of Cambodia toward prosperity." Next, we would like to invite Your

Royal Highness to make a speech for the attention of your subjects. [end Khim Bo recording]

[Begin Sihanouk recording] My respects to the clergy, H.E. Chea Sim, madame, excellencies the leaders of the CPP and the government of the State of Cambodia [SOC], and leading cadres and children in Kompong Som city. "I wish to thank H.E. Chea Sim, the brilliant leader of the SOC, CPP, and our Cambodian people" for having arranged this official visit for me," and the diplomats from a great many major countries for their presence.

Taking this opportunity, I wish to solemnly repeat that "I will never leave you, the children, again." I never did abandon you. I was forced to quit because of the coup d'etat staged by Lon Nol and Simatak in March 1970. And between 1975 and 1978, I was confined in the royal palace and a good number of my own children and grandchildren were killed by Pol Pot. And after the victory won by the army of their excellencies Chea Sim, Hun Sen, and Heng Samrin and the CPP, I was invited by China to stay in Beijing. So we lost contact for several years. However, since 1987 I have decided to establish relations with the SOC and CPP represented by H.E. Prime Minister Hun Sen. And in 1991, I returned home in the company of "H.E. Hun Sen, who was sent by H.E. Chea Sim to invite me to return." I will live here forever with all of you, the children, until my death.

However, in June I will go to Japan "to attend the international conference on the restoration and reconstruction of Cambodia." At the conference, there will be a great many friendly countries which will help to map out a plan to assist us in rebuilding our country toward progress and prosperity. I will go there to express our deepest thanks to them and tell them about our needs.

I would like to sincerely say that I am able to return home "thanks to their excellencies Chea Sim, Heng Samrin, and Hun Sen, the CPP, and the SOC Government." They have rendered me justice and honor. And this is why I can be with all of you here now. I will always feel grateful to those excellencies until I die. "I am extremely touched for having obtained this historical justice from the CPP and the SOC Government. I have no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of the CPP or the SOC Government. I am satisfied with, and support, their achievements and activities in carrying on the tasks of the Sangkum Reas Niyum. I come here not to continue the Sangkum Reas Niyum, because the children from the CPP and SOC have already pursued the works of the Sangkum Reas Niyum. I come here only in my capacity as the father of the nation, whose responsibility is to promote national reconciliation and reunification and safeguard the nation's independence, territorial integrity, peace, and harmony" for all of you. "I am not interested in power." [Applause]

Another great justice rendered to me on this historic day is that the CPP and SOC government have allowed Kompong city to again bear its former name of "Sihanouk Ville." [Applause] This is justice.

However, I dare not carry out propaganda in favor of any party, even the party of H.E. Chea Sim, of whom I extremely fond. Anyway, I am also duty-bound to say frankly what I have seen. Those who have made great achievements for the nation should be praised and encouraged, otherwise there is no justice, no neutrality. Since one is neutral, one should be fair all the same. "I wish to reaffirm that I will continue to extol the party that has displayed great efforts. But I will remain quiet about anything that I dislike."

The head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] asked me to account for the Paris accord. I told him that now we are practicing liberal democracy. This means that we can have as many political parties as we desire, and we are free to criticize; "but the criticisms should in no way be unreasonable. I only want to make clear this point. And for whatever reason, violence should not be used." This is to avoid insecurity.

Before concluding, I would like to thank the UNTAC, all beloved friends, and H.E. Yasushi Akashi for their assistance in promoting peace for us. And I wish to pray that the triple jewels protect you all. May you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. [end Sihanouk recording] [applause]

After ending his speech, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his consort, H.E. Chea Sim and madame, and the royal delegation went to inaugurate the stone marker bearing the mention "Sihanouk Ville." They then proceeded to open the junior high school of Sihanouk Ville as well.

At 1045, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his delegation, as well as all the guests, travelled to their residences for a rest.

Indonesia

Government Recognizes Yugoslav Breakaway Republics

BK2005185192 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1230 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 20 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia recognizes the independence of the Yugoslav breakaway republics of Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, a Foreign Ministry statement said here Wednesday.

The recognition by Indonesia of the independence of the former Yugoslav republics was stated in the Foreign Minister Ali Alatas's letters to the foreign ministers of the three new states, it said.

In the letters, Ali Alatas on behalf of the Indonesian Government expressed the hope that there would be diplomatic relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between Indonesia and the three new republics.

Regulation on Foreign Ownership of Companies Seen

BK1705170392 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 23 Apr 92 pp 1,5

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS—The government has finally amended the regulation governing foreign investment in Indonesia through state regulation No. 17/1992 dated 16 April 1992. Under the new regulation, foreign investors are allowed to own 100-percent equity in any investment with a fully paid registered capital of at least $50 million without having to include an Indonesian business partner.

Indonesian businessmen will be allowed to buy shares of such foreign investments five years after they have begun production. This clause is viewed to benefit foreign investors because they can sell only 5 percent of their total equity to Indonesian nationals who are either individuals or legal agencies, and to international agencies with status similar to Indonesian legal agencies, such as the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and the International Finance Corporation.

The new regulation was announced by Sanyoto Sastrowardoyo, chairman of the Capital Investment Coordinating Agency, in Jakarta yesterday. Speaking to reporters in the presence of his deputy Amin Warsita and the agency's expert staff, Admiral (Retired) Situmeang, Sanyoto also said that any domestic capital-intensive project affected by the recent rescheduling of overseas loan schemes will be allowed to change its status from a domestic project to a fully foreign-owned project. [passage omitted]

Gas Self-Sufficiency Expected 'This Year'

BK2005183792 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1237 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 20 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia is expected to meet its demand for gas this year which has so far been imported from Japan, South Korea, and Australia, an executive said here on Wednesday.

Indonesia hopes to become self-sufficient in gas in line with the coming into operation of a gas factory in Kendal, central Java.

The Kendal factory is one of the 22 plants which will soon be inaugurated by President Suharto, said President Director of Indosraya Utama Arif Harsono.

He told reporters who visited his firm on Monday that the company's production capacity is designed at 48 million cubic metres annually.

With the additional production, the Indonesian demand for gas which includes nitrogen, oxygen, and argon could be met, Harsono said.

Data at the Ministry of Industry indicate that Indonesia's domestic demand for all types of gas as industrial raw materials totals 220 million tons a year.

With the Kendal factory going into operation, all gas industries in Indonesia would be able to produce more than 220 million tons annually.

Thus, Indonesia would no longer need to import gas to supply its domestic metal, chemical, automotive, electronic and agricultural industries.

The new industry is expected to economize 17 million U.S. dollars of foreign exchange every year.

The country's gas production surplus will be exported to the Middle East, Europe, and Japan, Harsono said.

He also said that the argon product could be oriented to export markets, particularly Japan and Australia, because demand for this type is still small at home.

Jakarta Court Jails E. Timorese Student

BK2005172992 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1234 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Jakarta May 20 (OANA-ANTARA)—A Timorese student, Virgilio da Silva Guteres (26), who organised an anti-integration demonstration here in November last year, has been sentenced to two and a half years gaol by the Central Jakarta District Court, Tuesday.

The accused has been proved guilty of promoting hostile feelings and insulting the Indonesian Government by organising an anti-integration demonstration in front of the United Nations office here in November, 1991, said presiding Judge Tuaraja Siregar, when he read the sentence.

The sentence was six months less than prosecutor Agus Sutoto's demand, which was three years in gaol.

According to Judge Siregar, a factor which influenced the sentence was that the accused did not regret his activities. He says he feels forced to become an Indonesian citizen.

Virgilio, who was a student of Malang Institute of Technology (ITM) received a scholarship from the East Timor provincial government.

He is also chairman of the Timorese Student Association in Malang, East Java, and as such signed a declaration which insulted and condemned the Indonesian Government.

According to witnesses at the trial, the accused had intended to hold an anti-integration demonstration before the 12 November incident, which caused around 50 deaths and 90 injuries.

Virgilio and his friends prepared an anti-Indonesian declaration which they planned to deliver to members of the Portuguese Parliament, who were scheduled to visit Indonesia.

As the parliamentary visit was cancelled, he and his friends postponed the demonstration which was planned

to be held on 4 November last year. The demonstration was eventually held on 19 November, after the Dili incident occurred.

During the demonstration, a declaration was read which said that the aims of the group are similar to the aims of Namibian and West Saharan people in Africa.

After listening to the verdict, prosecutor Frans Hendra Winata, who accompanied the accused, stated that he would lodge an appeal to a higher court.

Philippines

Alarm at French Shipment of Plutonium to Japan

HK2105024592 Quezon City MALAYA in English 21 May 92 p 2

[By Shalom Mapagu]

[Text] Environmentalists questioned yesterday safety standards of a shipment of 50 tons of plutonium to Japan which would pass through 60 countries, including the Philippines.

The Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition [NFPC] said the U.S.-based Nuclear Control Institute, Greenpeace International in Amsterdam and the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center in Japan have deemed security and safety measures as inadequate.

The NFPC, headed by UP [University of the Philippines] Professor Roland Simbulan, urged the Philippine government to ask the Japanese government to answer safety questions raised about the shipment.

The Japanese government is importing 50 tons of high-grade plutonium from France for power generation. The plutonium will be shipped three to four times a year starting this year. Each shipment will consist of 1,000 kilograms of plutonium which environmentalists say are enough to make more than 120 nuclear weapons.

Simbulan said three routes for the shipments have been identified, including one around Cape of Good Hope. The shipments will pass 29 countries along the Atlantic, Africa, Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, including the Philippines.

Simbulan said scientists in Japan, U.S. and Korea have raised fears that the huge shipment of plutonium would be converted to nuclear weapons, considering Japan's extensive technological and scientific capability.

A report from the ECO Engineering Inc. of Annapolis, Maryland also raised serious questions about the reliability of the shipment casks in withstanding sea accidents, he said.

Creditors To Meet on Leyte Power Project Funding

HK1905082492 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 19 May 92 p 9

[By Rodney Diola]

[Text] The World Bank is convening Manila's major creditors next month to raise $1.6 billion for the development of Leyte's geothermal field, probably the biggest power project the country will undertake in the next 10 years.

World Bank Manila representative Thomas Allen said invitations have been sent out to the Japan Export-Import Bank, Asian Development Bank and the U.S. Export-Import Bank to attend the donors' conference in Washington D.C. The loan commitments will be used to finance projects that would ensure sufficient supply of electricity for Luzon and Cebu by the year 2000.

The Leyte project involves the development of two geothermal plants namely, the Leyte-Cebu Geothermal project and the Leyte-Luzon geothermal project.

World Bank is keen on the project since not only would it provide an environmentally-preferable energy supply but also a cheap source of power for Luzon and Cebu.

The World Bank considers Leyte, 800 kilometers south of Manila, as the best remaining source of geothermal energy for Luzon.

The Luzon-Leyte interconnection could provide an additional 800 megawatts all full capacity while the Leyte-Cebu interconnection would be able to provide an additional 200 megawatts, World Bank briefing papers to be circulated in next month's pledging conference said.

The plant servicing the Luzon grid however would initially have a 440 MW capacity while the plant pumping power to Cebu would have about 200 MW.

The first proejct, Luzon-Leyte, is estimated to cost $1.018 billion and the second, Leyte-Cebu, would cost about $450 million. The $1.6 billion estimate already includes interest on the loan during construction.

The Philippines is the second largest producer of geothermal energy in the world with an installed capacity of 1,000 MW.

World Bank is offering to lend $200-250 Million for each project. National Power Corp. [NPC] and Philippine National Oil Corp., the borrowers of record for the proposed World Bank loan, have agreed to directly finance the projects $283 million, or 17.7% of the total cost to be taken from their earnings.

World Bank therefore has to convince other multilateral and bilateral creditors to loss in an additional $850-$900 million.

The biggest expense, about $532 million, will go to the building of generating plants. NPC has been considering

to build-operate-transfer, but this could not be confirmed until over-all financing for the project is completed.

World Bank said the Leyte project is crucial if the Philippines is to address its power problem. The brownouts and load shedding since 1990 have become a serious hindrance to the Philipine economy, resulting in higher unemployment and a less propitious environment for industrial, economic, and social development compared to other countries in the region, it said.

The situation is likely to worsen until new power plants become operational in three or four years from now, a World Bank report said.

The bad news is that the project may not be put into commission until 1995 since World Bank appraisal of the first project starts in September 1993. The second project's appraisal won't be until June 1993.

World Bank's briefing paper said they don't see the project generating any controversy on environmental issues.

"The environmental impact of the project is estimated to be relatively low, not requiring resettlement of people or difficult measures for environmental projection," the report said.

Aquino Promises To Leave 'Debt Relief Package'

HK1905025792 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 May 92 p 1

[Text] A debt relief package covering $4.8 billion of the Philippines' commercial debt will be left for the next government to approve, President Corazon Aquino said yesterday.

"We have informed our creditors that we will submit the debt package to the next president for approval" after a new president is proclaimed next month, Aquino said in a statement.

The Philippines was originally due to sign an agreement with the commercial banks earlier this year, formally committing to a series of debt reduction measures covering $4.8 billion of the country's $29 billion foreign debt.

However, the country proceeded with a buyback of some $1.256 billion of its foreign debt using its own reserves earlier this month.

Also included in the package is the securitization of the loans extended by foreign banks to the construction of the nuclear power plant which is still mothballed until now although the government has entered into an agreement in principle with Westinghouse under which the latter will pay the Philippines a certain amount and operate the plant itself.

Aquino Opposes World Bank Deregulation Plan

HK2005040392 Quezon City MALAYA in English 20 May 92 p 2

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] President Aquino expressed yesterday opposition to the World Bank's insistence on the deregulation of power rates, saying the government, including the next administration, should have the people's welfare primarily in mind.

Mrs. Aquino also disputed the bank's opinion that the regulation of the energy rates was being used by the government as a political tool.

"While we have not politicized the pricing of energy, an administration must be able to respond to these matters with the welfare of the people in mind," she said.

The President, however, said it is really up to the next administration to decide on whether power rates should be deregulated.

The bank, through its representative Thomas Allen, recently said the foremost concern of the financial institution was the "depolitization of power rates."

Allen said the government's position on this matter "will be the basis for future lending."

The World Bank as well as other foreign lending institutions were caught by surprise when the government, just a few weeks before the May 11 elections, announced a reduction in prices of five oil products and of power rates.

Apparently to keep the next administration in check, the World Bank official indicated that the bank is tying the release of $400 million in loans for the Leyte geothermal project to a commitment from the government to deregulate power rates.

The project is part of a total of $1.35 billion in grants and loans for the Philippines this year. Another $400 million has been earmarked for economic integration projects, $150 million for irrigation, $100 million for rural infrastructure, $35 million for collection computerization, and $30 million for health and sanitation.

Press Secretary Horacio Paredes said Mrs. Aquino's decision to lower power rates arose from a genuine concern for the people's welfare.

"What the President is saying is we cannot ignore our people all the time ... A balance sheet does not feel pain. People who consume these things feel the pain. So you have to look at people, not just the balance sheet," he said.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Aquino said businessmen interested in investing in the Philippines should have no more reason to hold back after the elections.

"Businessmen who would still fear to invest after honest, orderly and peaceful elections will probably never come in. There are a lot of other businessmen who are ready to do business in the Philippines," she said.

Bank Data Show Increased Foreign Investment

HK2005034792 Quezon City MALAYA in English 20 May 92 p 9

[By Lou Palpal-Latoc]

[Text] Foreign investors are pouring in more dollars this year to finance their expansion and new projects, data from the Central Bank [CB] show.

The CB said that foreign investments in April rose by 128 percent to $3.455 billion from $1.51 billion during the same period last year.

Foreign investments boosted the CB gross international reserves in April to reach $4.815 billion, up by 66 percent from $2.907 billion last year. The CB's gold reserves was valued at $1.102 billion.

Economic analysts attribute the rise in foreign investments to the renewed confidence of foreign investors in the economy because of optimistic growth forecast.

Government and private officials forecast that the country's gross domestic product will grow by at least three percent because of massive inflow of funds to be used for the elections and the increase in consumer spending.

The Center for Research Communication earlier said that election spending will reach at least P30 billion [pesos].

The drop in interest rates to 16 percent and inflation rate to 8.7 percent also lured more investors to pour in more capital to the country, CB sources said.

As a result of the favorable investments climate, CB data show that foreign investment has been increasing for the past few months.

In January, foreign investments started high with $3.314 billion, up by 630 percent from $454 million during the same period last year.

Foreign investments surged further to $3.69 billion in February and hit an all-time high of $4.1 billion in March.

Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao earlier predicted that foreign investments will surge further next month because of the removal of the "wait-and-see" attitute of investors.

On the other hand, foreign investment in February last year was down at $1.024 billion and $1.51 billion in March because of the controversial import levy.

Chief Justice May Be Interim President

HK2105010292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] The Senate has expressed fears that there may be no new president and vice president to be proclaimed on 30 June. This has resulted in the entire Senate agreeing to pass a presidential succession bill which stipulates that the Supreme Court chief justice be made interim president at the time.

Government officials headed by President Aquino will remain in their posts until 30 June. Senate President Neptali Gonzales says the presidential succession bill is a wise step since this would preclude any plans by leftist and rightist rebels to sow violence. Suggestions are that this bill be made a priority at the next regular session of the Congress on 25 May.

Ramos Leads Santiago by 557,000 Votes

HK2005135092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Administration candidate Fidel V. Ramos continues to maintain his lead in the presidential race. Based on the latest unofficial nationwide tally of the Media Citizen's Quick Count, Ramos continues to lead his closest rival, Miriam Defensor Santiago, by 557,000 votes.

Ramos	2,401,898
Santiago	1,843,992
Cojuangco	1,736,320
Mitra	1,590,370
Marcos	1,119,287
Salonga	987,387
Laurel	202,690

The following are the results in the vice presidential race:

Estrada	2,530,254
Fernan	2,119,136
Osmena	1,561,514
R. Magsaysay	1,306,345
Pimentel	879,916
V. Magsaysay	328,437
Kalaw	69,608

Here is the list of the top thirty senatorial candidates: Sotto, Angara, Revilla, Herrera, Maceda, Romulo, Alvarez, Shahani, Gonzales, Mercado, Ople, Guingona, Macapagal, Webb, Rasul, Coseteng, Lina, Tolentino, Roco, Osmena, Biazon, Aquino, Tatad, Tanada, Bengson, Padilla, Bello, Aguirre, Concepcion, and Tamano.

Ramos Extends Lead

HK2105050892 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Nation's Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats standard bearer Fidel Ramos leads Miriam Santiago by a wide margin, based on the latest Media Citizens Quick Count tally at 0454 [0945 GMT]. Ramos is ahead of Santiago by more than 650,000 votes.

The latest figures are:

Ramos	2,641,220
Santiago	1,986,208
Cojuangco	1,905,892
Mitra	1,795,621

Imelda Marcos, Jovito Salonga and Salvador Laurel take fifth, sixth, and seventh places respectively.

In the vice presidential race, Senator Joseph Estrada maintains the lead.

The figures are:

Estrada	2,825,141
Ferman	2,355,921

Lito Osmena, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Aquilino Pimentel, Vic Magsaysay, and Eva Estrada Kalaw rank consecutively.

Malacanang Denies Pushing for Ramos Supporters

HK2005103992 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Malacanang has strongly denied allegations that it is pressuring the Commision on Elections [Comelec] to include five Lakas [Strength]-National Union of Christian Democrats senatorial candidates in the top 24 slots of the senatorial race. Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said that the president will not allow her last few days to be tarnished by such a misdeed.

[Begin Drilon recording in English] The president has maintained a high moral ground for the past six years of her administration. The last thing, and she will never do it, is to cheat in this elections to tarnish her administration. There is no such cheating. If there is any proof, why don't they bring it to the appropriate agency—we have the Comelec. I think that nobody can question the integrity and credibility of the Comelec. [end recording]

Candidates Warned on Inciting Supporters to Action

HK2005113292 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] will take appropriate actions against any candidate who incites their supporters to launch protest actions. This was announced by Comelec Commissioner Haydee Yorac along with her reminder that all candidates are tasked with guarding and honoring the election results. She said that all complaints with regard to the election results should be filed directly with Comelec. She warned that any candidate who interferes with the electoral process faces disqualification and other penalties.

Ramos Party Accused of Vote Fraud

HK2005024892 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 20 May 92 p 1

[By Jose H. Macaspac]

[Text] The Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Strugle of Filipino Democrats] yesterday exposed a plot by the Lakas ng EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue Strength]-National Union of Christian Democrats to intervene in the canvassing of returns and "jack up" votes for 12 of the Aquino administration's senatorial candidates who have been assured of their respective seats in the Upper Chamber.

But what really disturbed the LDP bigwigs were reports that the counting of votes and the canvassing of returns were being held in the military camps which are obviously under the control of the administration.

The plot was divulged to Senate President Neptali Gonzales, LDP president, during his recent trips to Mindanao to look into reports of election irregularities committed by administration officials. Gonzales was told by LDP officials that the plan was implemented by former Presidential Adviser for Military Affairs Jose Magno.

Gonzales met with Governor Zacarias Candao of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao, Sulu Vice Governor Ben Loong and Zamboanga Representative Maria Clara Lobregat. It was Senator Ernesto Maceda, an LDP reelectionist, who named Magno as the one who had been sent by Malacanang to meet the Mindanao local officials to ensure support for the 12 Lakas senatorial candidates who would be pushed up the rankings.

Magno, who was last spotted in Cotabato City, was reportedly on a "political mission" for Lakas presidential candidate Ramos. Magno's mission was apparently to convince local officials to shift their support to Ramos and the Lakas senatorial bets.

On the other hand, LDP field officials disclosed that Representative Jose de Venecia had assured the victory of 12 Lakas senatorial candidates.

Gonzales, bewailing the irregular procedure of counting votes inside military camps, said: "There is no free access (by LDP watchers) to the counting and the canvassing (in the camps)."

<>Aside from this, Gonzales said, some members of the Armed Forces had been openly soliciting votes for Ramos.

A Commission on Elections [Comelec] resolution designated the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] as the lead enforcer of Comelec rules in several Mindanao areas including Sulu.

There have been many cases, Gonzales said, when AFP control is indistinguishable from Comelec control.

Gonzales said he had already dispatched LDP officials to the critical areas to ensure that the interest of all LDP candidates are adequately protected.

Under the Media Citizens Quick Count, with about seven million votes counted, only three Lakas senatorial candidates—Leticia Shahani, Santanina Rasul and Alfredo Bengzon—are in the winning slate.

The other Lakas senatorial bets closing in on the Magic 24 are former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello, Francisco Chavez and Francisco Sumulong.

Loong [name as published] had assured Gonzales that adequate measures have been put in place to frustrate the administration plan and ensure the victory of at least 16 LDP senatorial candidates.

He said LDP watchers had mounted a 24-hour watch in the different municipal halls of Sulu where the canvassing of precinct returns is still going on.

Candao, for his part, said the AFP had taken control of ballot boxes in Cotabato which were being kept in the camps.

Other LDP Mindanao leaders submitted proof to Gonzales that countryside development funds were released to local officials on the eve of the elections.

The "assistance" consisted of checks for P20,000 [pesos] which were allocated to barangay leaders as a livelihood grant at P1,000 each.

The only condition given was that they vote for Ramos, the LDP officials said.

Ramos Party Denies Allegations

HK2005113192 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] The Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats [Lakas-NUCD] has dismissed allegations that it is manipulating the canvassing of votes in several parts of the country. This was Lakas-NUCD spokesman Raphael Alunan III's reaction to the accusations made by several parties that Ramos' party is cheating to ensure the victory of some of their senatorial candidates.

According to Alunan, it is more likely that the other political parties are the ones attempting to manipulate the poll results so that their own candidates can catch up with front running candidates Fidel Ramos and Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Coalition Exposes More Alleged Electoral Fraud

HK2105105492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 May 92

[By Resty de Quiros]

[Text] The Nationalist People's Coalition exposed another poll irregularity. In a news conference, Francisco Rabat, former Davao Oriental governor, showed video footage to the press allegedly taken by a hidden camera in the Municipal Town Hall of Governor Generoso in Davao Oriental. Rabat explained that the alleged poll irregularity was made in favor of a presidential candidate but did not mention the candidate's name. In the video, an unidentified man was shown taking some election documents while poll watchers were having their lunch break, and switching election returns. A Philippine National Police station commander identified as Arthur [surname indistinct] was also shown in the film. The film also shows other election-related irregularities that happened in the Davao Oriental municipal hall of Governor Generoso.

Police Chief Lowers Red Alert Status

HK2005140792 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] General Cesar Nazareno, Philippine National Police [PNP] chief, said that the PNP's red alert status will be lowered to blue alert today throughout the country. This follows normalization of the country's peace and order situation.

Conference Evaluates Election Problems

HK2105025492 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 21 May 92 p 1

[By Roy Sinfuego]

[Text] Protest rallies planned by various political groups and reported plans of ultra-rightist forces to stage sabotage operations may set back the efforts of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and citizens' groups for honest, peaceful, orderly, and credible election results.

This was stressed yesterday during a conference at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, attended by Christian Monsod, Comelec chairman; Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, Director General Cesar P. Nazareno, PNP chief, and Gen. Lisandro Abadia, AFP chief of staff, seven days after the national and local elections last May 11.

Monsod directed the PNP to continue its vigilance against any political group which might alter the results of the polls.

"Your vigilance must continue until the legitimate winners in the last elections are proclaimed," he said.

Monsod expressed optimism that the PNP and the AFP, both deputized agencies of the poll body, will maintain peace and order in the country until June 30, the end of the election period, and the day the new president is formally installed and assumes office.

Nazareno said members of the ultra-rightist forces are trying to discredit the results of the elections through their "propaganda and rumor mills."

The report that the military rebels have forged a tactical alliance with some candidates is still the "subject of further verification," he added.

Nazareno said that despite attempts to discredit the results of the elections and disrupt the peaceful electoral process, the May 11 polls were generally peaceful and orderly, except in some isolated cases.

He also lifted the "red alert" status of the PNP at noon yesterday.

Nazareno said a special PNP force is ready to respond to any Comelec order to reinforce soldiers and policemen guarding the Batasang Pampansa [National Assembly] building complex in Diliman, Quezon City, during the Congress canvass of presidential returns.

Aquino Says Any Rightist Coup Attempt Will Fail

HK1905112392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 May 92

[Dick Synchongco]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has asserted that any move launched against the governemnt by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM]-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union will not succeed. In a statement, the president said she is certain that whatever action the terrorist group intends to carry out will never succeed. At the same time, the chief executive reiterated she will not allow any group to disrupt the election process. This was her reaction to reports of alleged movement by RAM rebels over recent days. The report was based on radio messages sent to military and police units in Metro Manila regarding RAM terrorist activities. Earlier, the military disclosed an alleged alliance between the rebels and People's Reform Party presidential candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Thailand

King Meets Suchinda, Chamlong; Urges Cooperation

CM2105123692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 21 May 92

[Talk by King Phumiphon Adunyadet delivered at an audience granted to Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun and Major General Chamlong Simuang at Chitlada Palace at 1730 GMT on 20 May—recorded; simultaneously broadcast by Bangkok Army Television Channels 5 and 7 and Bangkok Color Television Channel 3; rebroadcast on same channels at 1930 GMT on 20 May]

[Text] It should be no surprise why I invited you to meet each other here. This is because everyone knows quite well what the situation is now like, and that this situation could lead the nation to ruin. You may also be surprised as to why I have invited only General Suchinda Khraprayun and Major General Chamlong Simuang. This is because you are probably the main characters involved. While there are also other characters, they are not here because right from the beginning both of you were the ones who confronted each other and participated in the escalated fighting or confrontation. That is why I invited both of you here. The purposes that each of you had in your initial confrontation were clear. But after 10 days it is evident that the confrontation changed drastically, to the point that whatever the outcome might be, both of you would lose because it would cause losses of life and blood of a considerably large number of people. In addition, the value of the material losses of property of both the government and private sectors are enormous. Moreover, the losses to the people's mental well-being and the national economy are incalculable. Therefore, allowing this development to continue, regardless of reason or cause, cannot in any way be justified. This is because your reasons have now changed. If the confrontation continues like this, Thailand will only face greater ruin. As a result, Thailand—the country we have built up very well for so long—will become a country without meaning, or with terribly negative meaning. Such an outcome is beginning to be revealed at the moment. Therefore, we must rectify this situation. We must do this by identifying our conflicts. Then we can try to resolve these conflicts in accordance with their priorities. This is because the nature of the problem that has prevailed during the past few days has changed. It is not a question dealing with politics or any particular position. It is a question of succession in a post. Therefore, we must help one another in solving this problem.

Several hundred people, both from Thailand and foreign countries, have sent recommendations to me for solving this problem. Their recommendations on what we should do to solve the problem are numerous. At first, they recommended that to solve the problem, Parliament should be dissolved. Regarding this recommendation, all parties which comprise Parliament were consulted. That means that all 11 political parties were consulted. The reply from most of them was that we should not dissolve the House. Only one party said that the House should be dissolved. Therefore, the solution to the problem in accordance with that recommendation was dropped. In addition, many petitions have also been submitted to me through normal channels, recommending many different methods for solving the problem. That is, whenever a petition is submitted to me, I will send it to the Office of the Cabinet or of the Prime Minister. However, the problem still could not be resolved by using those petitions' recommendations. In

addition to resolving the problem by means of dissolving the House, the problem might be solved through constitutional amendment in order to accommodate whatever principles we want. This means that [words indistinct] would cause confrontation. Regarding this method, you may remember that on 4 December, I spoke at the meeting of several thousand people who came to meet me [at Chitlada Palace on the king's birthday]. It seemed that everyone listened attentively to me. That was because the ideas raised at that meeting would help solve the problem. Now I would like to emphasize here what I said at that meeting. I said that we could either amend the Constitution before we promulgated it, or we could promulgate it first and then amend it later. On that day, everyone knew well that I was talking about the Constitution. At that time, the process of amending the original draft constitution was successively carried out.

Before delivering a speech at Dusit Dalai Hall, I met with Gen. Suchinda. Allow me to tell him that during that meeting, Gen. Suchinda agreed with the promulgation and amendment of the present Constitution. Later Gen. Suchinda verified that the amendment had been confirmed. Amending the Constitution should be carried out gradually until we can achieve so-called democracy. The methods for amending the Constituion had been discussed several months ago. The main reason for the promulgation of this Constitution, despite its incompleteness, is that its quality is of a usable form and better than the provisional Constitution that was used for almost one year, because some clauses of the latter were dangerous and unsuitable for the administration of the country. Therefore, if we can do what we discussed on 4 December last year, this would be tantamount to dealing with the original problem, not the problem we are facing today.

The current problem is not a matter of formulating or amending the Constitution. Today's problem concerns the safety and good morale of the people. In other words, the people everywhere fear danger. They are afraid that the country will be bankrupt and it will be very difficult to solve its problems.

According to foreign news reports, both my son and daughter are now abroad. Both of them are well informed and have been trying to tell the people in those countries that the situation in Thailand is still salvageable. It is apparent that their expectations may have been a little too high, since we could not stop the situation that has occurred during the past three days. Therefore, I ask both Gen. Suchinda and Maj. Gen. Chamlong to turn to each other and refrain from confrontation, because Thailand belongs to all of us, not any particular individual. Turn to each other to solve the current problem, which can be described as bloody and insane. People who resort to violence lose their self-control and are unaware of what they are fighting for and what problems should be solved. They only try to win. Who will win? No one wins. Every such action is dangerous. Everyone loses. Those who are confrontational also lose. The defeat is mostly suffered by the country as a whole and the people throughout the country, not only in Bangkok. If Bangkok suffers from damage, the entire country also suffers from the same damage. What is the use of pride in a victory that is based on destruction? For this reason, I appeal to both of you to turn to each other and avoid confrontation. Both of you are the representatives of various sides—not only two sides—which are now confronting each other and must help each other to find a solution to the immediate problem, which concerns the violence which has occurred. After the problems are solved, we will discuss what should be done to develop and rehabilitate Thailand. This is the reason I call on both of you here. I believe that both of you will be the ones who will build up the country from its ruins and will be much honored for doing good. It is up to you to work out the solution. This is my point of view.

Mr. President of the Privy Council and Mr. Privy Member [Gen. Prem Tinsulanon] are senior individuals who will give advice and hold consultations with them from a neutral standpoint and sense of patriotism. Please help each other to build up the nation.

Suchinda, Chamlong Comment

BK2005183892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1720 GMT 20 May 92

[Speeches by Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun and Major General Chamlong Simuang, delivered at a joint sitting following a meeting with King Phumiphon Adunyadet at Chitlada Palace at 1730 GMT on 20 May; recorded—simultaneously broadcast by Bangkok Army Television Channels 5 and 7 and Bangkok Color Television Channels 3 and 9]

[Text] [Suchinda] Respected and beloved Thai compatriots: His Majesty the King has graciously granted an audience to Major General Chamlong Simuang and me at about 2130 tonight, as you have just seen on television moments ago. His Majesty the King has instructed the two of us to act as representatives of all factions confronting one another at the moment and to turn to and help each other in bringing peace and happiness to the country to resolve the problems in the parliament so that we can cooperate with one another in building and developing the country.

After Maj. Gen. Chamlong Simuang and I took leave of His Majesty the King, with our utmost gratitude toward the royal kindness bestowed upon the Thai subjects as well as upon Maj. Gen. Chamlong Simuang and myself and with the advice and counsel of His Excellency Mr. Sanya Thammasak, president ot the Privy Council, and His Excellency General Prem Tinsulanon, member of the Privy Council and statesman, both of us have agreed that the government, government authorities, and I are ready to render cooperation in solving the problems with

the intention of bringing peace and happiness to the Thai people. Maj. Gen. Chamlong Simuang will be allowed to return home immediately.

The government will grant amnesty to the people who participated in the rally out of good faith. After we have reached this agreement and announced it here, if any elements are still trying to incite unrest, it will be necessary for government authorities to take drastic legal action against them to bring peace and happiness to the country and people.

As for the amendment of the Constitution, I am pleased to give my support to it so that it can be done soon. With regard to this matter, today I sent a letter to the speaker of parliament, asking him to invite members of parliament to attend a parliamentary session to discuss this matter on Monday, 25 May.

As for Maj. Gen. Chamlong Simuang, he has agreed to give utmost assistance to us in ending the current unrest. I now invite Maj. Gen. Chamlong to say something:

[Chamlong] Respected compatriots, the situation has gradually improved because of the power of the patronage of his majesty the king. I would like to inform our compatriots that the government is set up to solve the problems, and we are going to coordinate with various sides to quickly return the situation to normal. In the initial stage, the prime minister has already made a short announcement saying that he is ready to give support to an early amendment of the Constitution to meet the aspiration of our compatriots. Therefore, for the time being I appeal to the fraternal people not to support or sympathize with those who are now creating chaos, so that the situation can return to normal as soon as possible. If our compatriots cooperate with one another, the situation will soon become normal. Please follow procedures in settling problems in the future.

[Suchinda] Thank you.

Speaker Applauds Meeting

BK2105095592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] An atmosphere of understanding has finally been restored to the Thai people after His Majesty the King graciously bade Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun and former Phalang Tham Party leader Major General Chamlong Simuang to directly deal with each other to solve the country's problem.

House Speaker Athit Urairat told correspondents at the National Assembly building this morning that he was deeply touched by His Majesty the King's kindness. He was also happy that all sides concerned will use the parliament to resolve the country's problem.

[Begin Athit recording] I am happy that they regard the parliamentary institution as a haven of the fraternal people. During such a crisis, they are not looking to other sources but to parliament. Although they may sometimes find fault with the parliament, I am happy that they are still looking to the parliament. This shows that we still have hope.

However, we cannot just look at the surface in carrying out work. We must look deeply at the reasons, the timing, and the steps in carrying out the work. I would like to remind the fraternal people that when the parliament's efforts to help solve the problem were revealed on 8 and 9 May, everyone had expectations. However, the efforts failed because of obstacles. Now we have seen that what we did was not wrong. If we had proceeded with what we agreed on at that time, there would have been no such incidents, losses, or conflicts, which affect the people's morale and feeling.

It shows His Majesty the King's kindness that he has become involved with and solved the country's crisis. I would like to say that we must give parliament a chance. Several of the sides concerned have asked why we don't hold a parliamentary session as soon as possible. It is true that the parliament can help solve problems. But, if we do something in a hurry and at an unsuitable time, the parliament could also be dragged into the problem. For example, if we tried to open a parliament session while it was still not strong enough, there could be tension during the session, which could eventually lead to a dissolution of parliament. The parlaiment would be meaningless if it were dissolved. It is better if we wait for appropriate timing. So, I refused to say anything yesterday.

Now, the country's highest institution has come to help the country. The religious institution yesterday also rendered help by giving moral support to the public. The people are very delighted and satisfied. [end recording]

Opposition Leaders Urge Opening House Session

BK2005112792 Bangkok Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1005 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Leaders of the opposition parties, comprising the Democrat Party, the New Aspiration Party, the Phalang Tham Party, and the Solidarity Party, held a joint meeting and reached a decision calling for convening a House session on 22 May to debate the arrest of Major General Chamlong Simuang, former leader of the Phalang Tham Party. Bunchu Rotchanasathian, leader of the Solidarity Party, said that the House is the last prop of the people. Therefore, a House session must be convened unconditionally to debate the current situation.

In the meantime, the Office of the Parliament Secretariat has issued an announcement canceling a House session scheduled on Thursday, 21 May, on the grounds that the state of emergency has been in effect and that the date falls on a holiday officially observed due to the current unrest in Bangkok. Due to this development, the House speaker is ordering that the House session on that day be canceled. In addition, a joint parliamentary session between the House of Representatives and the Senate, as

initiated by the Senate speaker, to debate the amendment of the Constitution on Friday, 22 May, will also be postponed to a later date until normalcy returns.

Chawalit Comments

BK2005112192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1000 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, has said that the opposition parties collectively feel that the House president should convene a House meeting as soon as possible to address the current political situation.

[Begin Chawalit recording] Action in the National Assembly is the way for politicians to get things accomplished. We continue to believe that the National Assembly can solve all the problems as long as every group of National Assembly members is nonpartisan and seeks cooperation in solving the country's problems. The key is how to rid ourselves of selfish and partisan interests and begin standing on the issues that are in the interests of the nation at large. [end recording]

Suchinda Meets High-Ranking Military Officers

BK2005233892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 in Thai 2300 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] The prime minister and many high-ranking military officers ended a meeting about three hours ago. The situation has also improved.

Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun; Interior Minister Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Anan Kalintha; ACM Kaset Rotchananin, military supreme commander and Air Force commander in chief; General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Army commander in chief; and many high-ranking miltiary officers ended a meeting at the First Army Region Headquarters after 0200 this morning. They did not talk to newsmen after the meeting.

Chamlong Reports on Detention

BK2005133192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1232 GMT 20 May 92

[Interview with Major General Chamlong Simuang, former leader of the Phalang Tham Party and member of the House of Representatives, by unidentified TV reporters at unidentified location; date not given; broadcast simultaneously by Bangkok Army Television Channels 5 and 7 and Bangkok Color Television Channels 3 and 9—live or recorded]

[Text] [Chamlong] I would like to inform our compatriots that throughout the period of my detention, I have been well provided for. The reason I say this is not because I am speaking in front of these younger brothers standing behind me.

At the Metropolitan Police Private Training School, they wanted me at first to take a rest and sleep in the guest reception room, which is air-conditioned. I asked to sleep in an ordinary room. Therefore they arranged for me to sleep alone right in the detention room. It was comfortable. There were no mosquitos because they also provided me with a mosquito net.

The next day I was moved to another location. I would prefer not to tell you where this location is. I am a soldier and I know it well. Even my brother, commanding officers here have never asked me to do this. I am now here. It is convenient here. My mental state is normal. I am comfortable, even more comfortable than at home, where I have to work almost every 15 minutes. Here I have time to exercise both physically and mentally. I exercise twice a day in this room. I also can meditate for many hours a day. I also am writing notes of this experience for my next book, entitled: "Unite To Fight," which will be marketed in the near future. I am using my time to write about this experience as a piece of history. Anyone who thinks that this book is worth reading and valuable for further study may have it.

So far, there has been nothing to cause me to suffer either mentally or physically, even though I am detained in this room. I sympathize with these younger brothers, for they have to carry out their duty. Whenever I want to leave the room, they have to unlock the door for me. That is why I am trying to help myself by leaving this room only twice a day: Day and night.

I would like to reassure our compatriots that I have been given good treatment as a general. These younger brothers were in the junior classes after mine [from the Chunlachomkhlao Royal Military Academy]. They have been most respectful and courteous to me, even though I am no longer a general in active service and am here as a suspect. But everyone still treats me as the same old Chamlong.

Foreign Minister Pongphon on Current Situation

BK2005111292 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1000 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan said today that Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon was very kind to express her concern about the situation at home even while she was abroad.

[Begin Pongphon recording] Every one of us should now come to our senses to make sure that what we did and will do from now is in the interest of the nation at large. [end recording]

Pongphon also said what had happened was regrettable because everything happened so suddenly when groups of people separated themselves from the rally, which was criticizing the government and members of parliament [MP's], and began to use force. As an MP, he believed every MP felt he could accept criticism because there was no ban against such criticism. But the use of force by the rally participants was unacceptable. He said both the government and the opposition mp's have not ignored

the matter and have been discussing it. In any event, the matter will have to be discussed rationally in the parliament.

[Begin Pongphong recording] Concerning setting fire to government and private property, it is necessary for the government to maintain law. What the government is doing is to suppress violators of the law. I am certain that the government had no intention of acting against the people who attended the rally in a peaceful manner. [end recording]

On creating understanding and correcting Thailand's image in the eyes of foreign countries, Pongphon said:

[Begin Pongphon recording] We will have our hands full in trying to explain to and improve ties with the countries which reacted strongly to our riot suppression. I feel that we must try to explain the facts and the method which we used to solve the problem, while at the same time conveying to the Thai Government and people the impressions and opinions other countries have toward Thailand. This is because the world is interested in Thailand; in the past we played no small role in the world community. [end recording]

Crown Prince Interviewed on Current Crisis

BK2005150992 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1310 GMT 20 May 92

[Interview with Crown Prince Maha Wachilalongkon by unidentified correspondent during his current visit to the Republic of Korea on the current crisis in Thailand; place and date not given—recorded; simultaneously broadcast by Bangkok Army Television Channels 5 and 7 and Bangkok Color Television Channels 3 and 9]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] During your stay in Seoul, Your Royal Highness must have learned from the mass media, especially the Korean mass media, and (?seen photos) on the developments in Bangkok in the past two days. What is Your Royal Highness' opinion after seeing those photos?

[Crown Prince Maha] Yes, I have seen the television newscasts and read the newspapers. I have been questioned by many hosts here. It is deplorable and saddening. I am very concerned about the upsurge of unrest in our country, which is apparently very violent in all respects and has caused great loss of life and property among our Thai people.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Crown Prince Maha] The Korean president has asked me about the events and the situation. He asked about the background of the events, why they occurred, and what they might lead to, etc.

[Correspondent] Looking at the events in Bangkok, for the sake of happiness and peace of the country and for the sake of unity among the Thai people, we Thai people would like to put our faith in Your Royal Highness by asking for your advice in solving the current conflict?

[Crown Prince Maha] I would like to go back a little bit to what the Korean president asked me earlier. I told him that, since ancient times, the Thai people as a whole have always been kind, sympathetic to other people, and conciliatory. They know how to maintain unity. With all these qualifications, it is likely that we Thai people can resolve all problems for the better. That was what I told the president.

As for your question, I think that violence is not a good thing. Violence will not bring peace, happiness, nor tranquillity to us. As I said earlier, if we Thai people have sympathy for each other, make sacrifices, and turn toward one another to have rational dialogue with a sense of friendship, every problem can be resolved. The loss of lives and the bloodshed caused by us, the Thai people, in killing and using force against one another will only cause widespread damage to Thailand and the Thai people. We will lose happiness, peace, tranquillity, property, and good reputations. This development will only bring a state of restlessness to our country. It will cause us to lose happiness. The image and honor of our nation in all fields will be downgraded and will suffer.

[Correspondent] I know very well that Your Royal Highness is gravely concerned about the safety of the people and their property. I would like Your Royal Highness to convey your feelings to the Thai people.

[Crown Prince Maha] I am now very concerned about the Thai people and our country. I would like to convey my thought to the Thai people as follows: As I said earlier, violence is not a good thing. If we do things with uncontrolled rage rather than with reason, we will not be able to resolve problems. If we begin to engage in dialogue with a sense of kindness toward each other, we will be able to jointly solve the problems. We must make compromises and sacrifices. A sense of kindness can help us a lot. You probably remember His Majesty the King's statement made on 4 December last year, that we must know how to love and unite. If all of us know how to love and unite, we will become reasonable and have regard for other people. We will then develop a sense of affection toward one another. Then we will have wisdom to resolve all problems with prudence and reason to attain peace. When we know how to love and to unite, we will enjoy unity, peace, happiness, and tranquillity. After that, stability will be forthcoming in our country. After that no one will suffer. Then all sides and people, who are all Thai compatriots, will attain happness and stability.

I would like to convey this thought to our people.

Anan Says Detainees May Be Released on Bail

BK2105032792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 May 92 p A6

[By Napphon Wong-Anan]

[Text] Interior Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Anan Kalintha said the ministry will release on bail more than 3,000 of those arrested if there was no evidence to show that they had actively participated in anti-government demonstrations.

The bail would be Bt10,000 cash or Bt20,000 in collateral.

Anan was referring to the people captured at Ratchadamnoen Avenue, some of whom were beaten up on Monday and Tuesday and held in police custody at Bangkhen Police School.

Asked whether police would arrest more politicians, the minister said: "No".

But Supreme Commander ACM Kaset Rotchananin had said earlier that some politicians, including former New Aspiration Party secretary general Prasong Sunsiri, were on the police blacklist.

In reference to Kaset's remarks, Anan, who is said to have close relations with the supreme commander, said: "At this stage, it's uncertain whether he (Prasong) would be arrested. The supreme commander has not been ordered to issue a warrant to arrest him."

Prasong, a critic of the current administration, was frequently seen at the anti-Suchinda rally sites but went into hiding, once the crackdown began.

Pro-democracy leaders already in detention include former Phalang Tham Party leader Chamlong Simuang; hunger striker Chalat Worachat; slum leader Prateep Ungsongtham-Hata and deputy NAP [New Aspiration Party] leader Wira Musikaphong.

Also warrants for the arrest of the Student Federation of Thailand secretary general Parinya Thewanarumitkun, Chalat's daughter Chitrawadi, former student activist Dr Weng Rotcharakan, Dr San Hatthirat and labour leader Somsai Kosaisuk had been issued.

Anan said he has assigned deputy Police Department director general Pol Gen Phong-amat Amatayakun to interrogate the pro-democracy leaders.

In reference to Chamlong's case, Anan said it would be dealt with according to the judicial process.

"As far as I know, Chamlong was charged with instigating mobs to destroy state property," Anan said, adding that it depends on police whether they have evidence to back up the charges.

Asked whether the governemnt would resort to force against demonstrators at Ramkhamhaeng University, Anan said that it was the Capital Security Command's responsibility. He added that there would be no problem if the protesters demonstrate peacefully within the campus without creating trouble for the public.

Asked to comment on the international outcry against the Thai government's brutal suppression of unarmed demonstrators, Anan said: "Soldiers simply protected themselves. We used reasonable force."

Suchinda, Anan Lift Curfew 21 May

BK2105065492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0628 GMT 21 May 92

["Announcement on lifting of curfew in Bangkok"—read by announcer, simultaneously broadcast on all television stations on 21 May]

[Text] Per issuance of the announcements prohibiting people in Bangkok from leaving their residence within a specified time issued on 20 May at 1900, i.e. which bans people from leaving their residence during 2100-0400 unless permitted by the authorities, because the situation has now improved, it is deemed the people in Bangkok will be able to leave their residence and travel as normal. Therefore, the 20 May announcement imposing curfew in Bangkok is lifted from this moment.

Announced on 21 May at 1200.

[Signed] General Suchinda Khraprayun, prime minister Air Chief Marshal Anan Kalintha, interior minister

3,000 Gather at Ratchadamnoen as Calm Returns

BK2105084492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Bangkok, May 21 (AFP)—An estimated 3,000 anti-government protesters started gathering in the city centre Thursday near the Royal Hotel where scores of demonstrators were gunned down by troops on Monday night.

An army truck that passed by was stoned by the crowd which began gathering shortly after midday.

Late last night King Phumiphon Adunyadet called for an end to the violence and commanded the government and opposition parties to reach a compromise over the political crisis.

Early Thursday morning the capital was calm after the king's televised broadcast and demonstrations were reported to have broken up.

The opposition wants proposed constitution changes to ensure that the prime minister is an elected MP.

Current Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun refused to stand in the March elections.

The anti-government protesters who have taken to the streets in their tens of thousands since the weekend are demanding the immediate resignation of Suchinda.

Calm later returned and the stoning incident appeared to be isolated. Traffic in the area flowed normally.

But tension was lingering as young people distributed leaflets claiming that the death toll in three days of violence was as high as 12,000.

The government claims that no more than 40 protesters were killed when troops repeatedly fired into crowds earlier this week.

But according to reliable estimates by reporters, hospital workers and the opposition the toll was over 100.

As the crowd continued to mill around near the Royal Hotel youths were also seen laying wreaths at spots in the area where people had been shot.

Protestors Vow To Continue Peaceful Means

BK2105025792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 May 92 p 1, 3

[Text] Pro-democracy protesters at Ramkhamhaeng Undiversity said last night they will continue fighting through peaceful and reasonable means to give the country an elected prime minister.

"We who have joined in fighting for the same cause have already heard that His Majesty the King does not want to see Thai people kill one another. But the persons who kill others must be punished by law. There's no exception," Rankhamhaeng University student leader Chatuphon Phromphan said.

Addressing a gathering of 80,000 people at the campus after midnight last night, Chatuphon urged the protesters not to show their emotion after Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun and Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang appeared on television to talk to the people after being granted an audience by His Majesty.

He said the protesters will continue the rally in a peaceful manner until their call for an elected MP as prime minister is met.

He said the protesters and relatives of the people who were killed in the bloody crackdown on the demonstrators remained firm with their determination and not to allow their emotions to show which may undermine their goal.

He said protesters must help prevent attempts by "a third hand" to exploit the protest to provide an excuse for the violent suppression of the movement.

Chatuphon said that the protest leaders will meet to discuss measures in the peaceful campaign to give the country an elected PM.

"We must fight with reason because the persons that we have scorned cannot be trusted longer. If we continue to rally peacefully and some people still burn things, we will petition His Majesty the King that the persons who destroy public property are the military," he said.

Thousands of pro-democracy protesters seized a section of Ramkhamhaeng Road last night to continue their pro-democracy rally in open defiance of a curfew imposed by the Government. Cars and Trucks as well as oxygen cylinders were used by the protesters to build blockades and tight security was arranged among themselves to prevent possible infiltration by would-be troublemakers.

All people who wanted to enter the blockade zone were throughly checked by the guards who were mostly students.

Despite Interior Minister Anan Kalintha's curfew order which was effective between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m., thousands of people were still walking around the seized zone.

Motorcyclists were roaming the area while a number of pubs remained open to clients who are among the protesters.

Bangkok residents were not allowed to leave home except after obtaining permission from the authorities.

Those exempted from the ban were:

—Military and uniformed police personnel travelling between their homes and work places;

—Sick people on the way to hospital and people accompanying them;

—Ambassadors, charge d'affaires and their wives and drivers; and

—People returned from or going abroad and their drivers.

The Government announced on television at 9.17 p.m. that police officers with at least the rank of sub-lieutenant at all metropolitan police stations are allowed to grant travel ban exemptions.

The demonstrators denounced the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators at Ratchadamnoen Avenue and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Suchinda.

A large number spilled into Ramkhamhaeng Road as the size of the crowd swelled late in the afternoon.

Some protesters removed steel railings on the road islands to resinforce the barricades set up near the Rama IX junction and in front of the Hua Mak Indoor Stadium.

The blockades were also erected at the Mall 3 and Hua Mak Indoor Stadium using sandbags, blocks of concrete, potted plants, and metal.

Another roadblock was set up at the foot of the bridge near the Ramkhamhaeng-Rama IX road. Oxygen tanks were also placed on the road in an apparent attempt to slow down police or army columns advancing to the university.

By late last night the whoel section of the blocked street became more like an autonomous town of its own as people could walk freely without any law enforcement officers to enforce the curfew.

Ramkhamhaeng University Rector Chusak Sirinin said the pro-democracy students and other rallying inside the campus since Tuesday are peaceful.

Mr Chusak said students and other demonstrators have shown no signs of trying to destroy university property. He said that not only the university's security guards, but also students themselves have searched people for weapons as well as employing other security measures to keep the university sate and free of saboteurs.

The rector said the authorities should not arrest them, adding he will not protest if he was dismissed for allowing the demonstration.

Ramkhamhaeng University is trying to find out how many of its students have been detained following the suppression of the demostrators by soldiers and policemen in Ratchadamnoen Avenue.

The rector said hundreds of Ramkhamhaeng students are believed to have been detained but no accurate figures are available.

ACM [Air Chief marshal] Anan, who expressed deep concern over the protest, declined to rule out the use of "drastic action" against the demonstrators.

Students earlier yesterday took turns at the microphone urging Gen Suchinda to leave the country. After making speeches outside the university gate in the day time the protesters moved into the university grounds at night.

Around 8 p.m. students used a loudspeaker truck to tell people outside the university of the curfew ordered by the Government.

People were told either to go home or come into the university compound and stay the night but the request went unheard.

At Ratchadamnoen Avenue yesterday morning, the crowd began to build up after people found what they thought were fragments of bones during a curious search of piles of remnants put on the side of the avenue by municipal clearing teams.

The discovery fuelled bitterness which was swelled further by unidentified members of the crowd, which was estimated at 3,000.

At noon, a group of people gathered around a bullet-ridden passenger bus and pushed it over.

One man jumped on the bus and started verbally attacking Gen Suchinda.

By 2 p.m. another group collected plastic tree pots while motorcycle gangs soaked them with oil and burnt them.

At the same time, a mini-truck carrying bricks passed through.

A group stopped the truck, took the bricks and dumped them opposite the lottery stands.

Others tried to burn two buses that had been repaired after having been hijacked and driven to the area. They were stopped in time.

But another group succeeded in burning two garbage trucks in the vicinity.

By 3 p.m. 200 military personnel came from Phan Fa Bridge to disperse the crowd and another 500 troops came from Sanam Luang, apparently to corner the peoplw who scattered away.

The troops later increased to 1,000.

By 4 p.m. small groups of people were mocking and ridiculing the military.

These people then ran to nearby sois and posed as ordinary people.

One passerby said government property destroyed by protesters was bought with taxes. Taxpayers therefore had every right to destroy the property.

"It's far better than allowing the military to destroy," he said.

Soldiers cleared the scene and by 6 p.m., exits and entrances to Ratchadamnoen from the Democracy Monument to the Public Relations Department had been sealed off.

A large crowd was reporterd on the avenue, with those who were unable to reach it said to be gathering at the San Chao Pho Sua shrine on Dinso Road.

But after the curfew was imposed, the whole area became deserted with only heavily-armed soldiers being deployed behind barbed-wire barricades at the intersection leading to the inner area of the avenue.

Protests in Provinces Condemn Violence

BK2105024192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 May 92 p 7

[Text] Protests condemning the excessive use of violence to put down anti-Suchinda demonstrations in Bangkok are spreading further throughout the nation's provinces.

In Nakhon Ratchasima about 20,000 people yesterday gathered at Suan Rak Ground near Thao Suranaree Monument for a second day to demand that Gen Suchinda Khraprayun resign or dissolve Parliament.

Local residents and businessmen said their elected representatives should show their spirit by resigning if Gen Suchinda refused to respond to their demands.

Most people attending the rally said the government party members no longer existed in the hearts of Nakhon Ratchasima residents. People earlier laid wreaths at the offices of the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai and Social Action Parties.

Many people went on stage to denounce the Government's use of force to quell the protests.

They also slammed the Nakhon Ratchasima MPs for failing to address their rights.

About 2,000 to 3,000 US servicemen began packing their belongings and leaving Nakhon Ratchasima yesterday after the US Government cancelled its participation in the joint Cobra Gold military exercise.

A senior businessman said the departure of the US servicemen would have a sharp impact on the province's economy as they were expected to spend about 200 million baht during their stay.

In Nakhon Pathom about 30,000 protesters gathered at Pathom Chedi stupa.

New Aspiration MP Sarawut Niyomsap and others were extremely critical of the non-elected Premier.

The rally organised by doctors and students denounced the killings of demonstrators by government roops in Bangkok on Monday and Tuesday.

About 1,000 people gathered peacefully in Kanchanburi's Tha Muang District where Phalang Tham MP Phinit Chanthasombun joined other speakers to denounce the Premier for the killings.

In Songkhla about 30,000 demonstrators joined a rally in front of the Songkhla provincial town hall to demand the resignation of Gen Suchinda.

Another rally, joined by about 300 people, was held behind Hat Yai railway station.

The Prince of Songkhla University, including the medical faculty, has halted operations.

In Phatthalung about 5,000 took part in a rally at a public park.

Some 10,000 demonstrators in Trang were at the sports ground where a statement from the Federation for Democracy was read calling on parents to keep their children away from school.

In Nakhon Si Thammarat more than 10,000 people rallied at the city ground.

About 10,000 people in Surat Thani continued their anti-Suchinda protest at Si Surat field in Muang District.

The protesters appealed to people throughout the province to wear black or black armbands to mourn the death of pro-democracy demonstrators gunned down by government troops.

In another form of protest, a large number of bank customers yesterday withdrew their savings from the Thai Military and Krung Thai banks.

In Yala about 10,000 demonstrators gathered in front of the provincial hall to demand the resignation of Gen Suchinda and amendments to the Constitution.

A crowd of about 2,000 began gathering at about 10 a.m.

The demonstrators were made up of students, civil servants and others.

Later in the morning, the provincial education office chief asked the principals of private schools to order their students not to join the rally.

In Khon Kaen a procession of about 200 nurses and lecturers rode through the Muang District township on motorbikes and in cars to a site beside Sarakham Phittayakhom School where they delivered anti-Suchinda tirades.

They demanded an end to the killing by government forces and distortions by government media, the immediate resignation of Gen Suchinda and the release of Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang.

Several people were concerned about the safety of their relatives in Bangkok after they heard about the killings.

Some 30,000 people continued to rally against Gen Suchinda elsewhere in Khon Kaen with most government officials expressing concern about the action taken against people in Bangkok.

Some said they believed less than five per cent of Thai people would continue to support Gen Suchinda as prime minister if a survey was conducted.

Most people in the province yesterday wore black and black armhands to show their respect for those killed fighting for democracy.

Many cars also carried stickers denouncing Gen Suchinda.

The provincial public health office staff showed their displeasure of the Government's action by taking leave from the office.

Provincial authorities yesterday informed chief district officers to monitor the situation closely and tell people to only believe government information.

Each police station was ordered to have at least 50 police on duty at all times and prepare for possible violence.

Over 20,000 people rallied peacefully outside Ubon Ratchathani Teachers' College wearing black armbands to mourn the death of demonstrators.

The rally began at 5:30 p.m. with over 100 armed police and defence volunteers standing by.

Generators and water tanks were prepared close to the rally site.

The demonstrators called on the Premier to stop killing the people and unconditionally release all those detained.

The Ubon Ratchathani demonstrators also called for the resignation of all 360 MPs.

About 10,000 people yesterday demonstrated in Krabi and urged the Fourth Army Region to join them.

The peaceful demonstration finished at 7.00 p.m. although it was decided to meet again today.

A demonstration leader, Somkiat Kitthithonkun, asked participants to sing to show their respect for His Majesty the King, then read a paper he said he had received from another party which asked the people to telephone, write, or send faxes to the Fourth Army Region asking for help to return democracy to the country.

In Chiang Mai, the rally moved from Tha Pae to Chiang Mai University after organizers noticed strangers roaming among those attending the rally.

Some 10,000 attended the rally at the university campus.

Health Official Comments on Riot Casualties

BK2005165992 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1625 GMT 20 May 92

[Interview with Dr. Uthai Sutsuk, permanent under secretary of the Public Health Ministry; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Respected audience, the violence of the successive rallies staged continuously in the past several days has caused death and injury to a number of people. Twenty private and government hospitals located in Bangkok metropolis have tried their best to provide medical treatment to these victims of the unrest. Tonight, Dr. Uthai Sutsuk, permanent under secretary of the Public Health Ministry, and directors and deputy directors of 13 hospitals are here with us to explain the truth of this issue to the public. I would like to begin with the permanent under secretary of public health, Dr. Uthai Sutsuk.

[Uthai] Respected listeners and viewers, three hospitals under the supervision of the Public Health Ministry have provided medical treatment to the people injured as a result of the unrest, namely Loet Sin Hospital, Ratwithi Hospital, and Phranang Klao Hospital in Nonthaburi. The ministry has also sent mobile medical teams to give medical treatment to people on the spot where the events took place. We have also provided medical care to them at the three hospitals. In addition, the Public Health Ministry has also been assigned to coordinate with other hospitals in providing treatment to the people wounded in the events to keep correct records of the injured and those who died from injuries in the 20 hospitals.

From the ministry's data collection of the number of fatalities and wounded receiving treatment at the 20 hospitals under the supervision of various ministries and departments as well as the private sector, a total of 650 persons have sought treatment at these hospitals. Of these, 171 have been admitted as in-patients, while 40 others have died. The rest of them—441—have been released after receiving treatment. [passage omitted]

Dailies To Be Closed Due to Riot Coverage

BK2005154092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Bangkok, May 20 (AFP)—The publishers of three Bangkok dailies, including the English-language THE NATION, said Wednesday they expected them to be closed by the authorities imminently in retaliation for their coverage of the violence in the city.

A statement by THE NATION Publishing Group said the police had told publisher Sutthichai Yun that they had been instructed to close THE NATION and the Thai-language NAEO NA and THE MANAGER.

It quoted Major General Yothin Matthayomnan, commander of the police Special Branch, as saying that the closure order could take effect Thursday, but it had to be approved by Police Director General Sawat Amonwiwat.

"He gave no specific reason for the action but hinted it was a result of the three dailies' critical coverage of the government's bloody suppression of the demonstrators over the past few days," the statement said.

It quoted Sutthichai as saying that THE NATION had carried out its duty as a professional and independent newspaper reporting facts to the public.

"THE NATION has done its best in trying to give a true picture of the crisis. The decision to close us only serves to show that the government's repeated claims it was for press freedom is nothing but a lie," Suthichai said.

THE NATION, one of two English-language dailies in Bangkok, has been consistently critical of the military ever since generals staged a coup in February last year to topple an elected government.

It has labeled the assumption of the premiership last month by General Suchinda Khraprayun a disguised coup to guarantee continued domination by the military of Thailand's political system.

Soldiers Sent to TV Station After Coverage Shifts

BK2105032392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 May 92 p A2

[Text] A group of 100 soldiers was sent to Channel 9 yesterday after the television station apparently changed its tone in favour of the pro-democracy movement demonstrations since Tuesday night.

But the deployment of the troops to the station at 4:40 pm failed to prevent the TV station from presenting its evening news reports which no longer protrayed protesters as instigators of unrest as charged by the government.

Channel 9 also reported the troop deployment in its evening news, saying the soldiers had put up barricades at the entrance to the station's compound in order to provide "protection".

All government-controlled electronic media, including Channel 9, has been presenting news apparently biased against the pro-democracy movement since the mass demonstrations against non-elected Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun broke out two weeks ago.

The electronic media failed to report on casualties among the unarmed demonstrators after soldiers opened fired on the crowds on Sunday night and early Monday morning. The demonstrators were also portrayed as troublemakers who had brought about turmoil and unrest.

The media, instead, highlighted soldiers' "extreme discipline and restraint" in dealing with the demonstrators.

But on Tuesday night Channel 9 showed lengthy footage of an incident in which soldiers stormed Ratchadamnoen Avenue to clear out demonstrators.

A scene showed soldiers aiming their M-16 assault rifles lightly above the demonstrators who were forced to lie flat on the ground.

During its evening news programme, the TV station also showed long footage of anti-Suchinda activities which were often omitted by other TV stations.

Vietnam

Lawyer Sentenced for 'Antisocialist' Acts

BK2005134692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1207 GMT 20 May 92

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hanoi, May 20 (AFP)—A Vietnamese lawyer has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for "disseminating propaganda against the socialist regime," according to a Ho Chi Minh City newspaper received here Wednesday.

Doan Than Liem, an associate of deported U.S. businessman Michael Morrow, was sentenced on May 14, the SAIGON GIAI PHONG reported in its May 15 edition. He had been held in the southern city for two years without trial.

A second man identified as Nguyen Tri received an eight-year sentence on the same charge.

Liem, 58, allegedly "used the cover of legal counsel for a foreign company to establish relations with overseas reactionary forces, receive and store reactionary and anti-socialist printed matters," the daily said.

According the the indictment, Liem "drafted propaganda and psychological warfare documents containing ideas opposing the socialist regime, requesting the (Communist) Party to give up its political monopoly, advocating political pluralism and asking the National Assembly to dissolve itself."

Liem, 58, a Saigon lawyer before the fall of the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government in 1975, was described in the indictment as having "deep association with the former regime and former ranking U.S. officials."

Liem was arrested in April 1990 along with Morrow, a Hong Kong-based U.S. businessman for whom he had worked as a business consultant.

Morrow, who was helping a group of Dutch investors negotiate a hotel deal in Danang when he was seized, was expelled from Vietnam three weeks later—on May 14, 1990. He said his interrogators repeatedly accused him of espionage, a charge he denies.

Liem's daughter, who was allowed to visit him in detention in February 1991, reported that his health had greatly deteriorated and that he appeared physically incapable of speech, according to the U.S.-based human rights organization Asia Watch.

In addition to Liem, several other Vietnamese associates of Morrow arrested at the same time are still believed held, among them Do Ngoc Long.

Articles in Vietnam's official press have accused Liem and Long of being part of a "spy ring" established by Morrow to gather information about Vietnam, though one article indicated that cutting and marking press clippings could be considered subversive.

"They overlook that when someone clips, marks passages and compiles articles, that individual evaluates the material to determine its value to the one who received it," the journal CONG AN (Public Security) wrote last year, criticizing those who "see nothing wrong" with such activities.

Hanoi has been sending out mixed signals on its human rights policy in the past several months.

Four leading dissidents, including writer Duong Thu Huong, have been freed since November, while the first Vietnamese member of the human rights group Amnesty International, Nguyen Dan Que, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for "subversion."

Women's Union Opens National Congress

BK1905164792 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 19—The Seventh National Congress of the Vietnam Women's Union opened here

this morning with the slogan "solidarity and renovation for equality, development and happiness of women."

Attending the two-day congress are 760 delegates representing the union's membership of 11 million.

The opening ceremony was honoured by the presence of Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, State Council President; Le Quang Dao, National Assembly Chairman; Phan Van Khai, permanent vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and other senior officials of the party, the government and other mass organizations.

Ms. Truong My Hoa, vice-president of the Vietnam Women's Union, delivered a political report of the union Central Committee, citing the targets of women's movement in the years to come, namely to "unite women of all strata, to bring into full play all creativeness and fine virtue of women in order to well carry out the party and state socio-economic tasks, thus contributing to build new type of women who love the country and socialism, who are progressive, who work effectively to stabilize their life, and who know how to be rich in a lawful way and how to build a quality family and to apply family planning, and to make the union strong enough to represent and the care of women in the renovation process."

The report also stated the main programmes of action: To raise women's knowledge and capacity, to provide jobs and increase incomes for women to care for the health of women and children, to renovate the union's organization, to mobilise the masses to build the union to implement, supervise and inspect the policies and laws related to the interests of women.

Ms. Truong My Hoa put forth, on behalf of the union, some proposals asking the party and the state to create more conditions for women to realise equality between men and women, to provide more jobs for women, to solve well social vices such as prostitution and the problem of juvenile delinquency, and requesting the state to take into account the element of gender while making new policies.

General secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi addressed the congress.

National Congress Closes

BK2005210492 Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 20—The Seventh National Congress of the Vietnam Women's Union closed here today after adopting the union's resolution and statute ended.

The congress elected a new Central Committee of the union comprising 96 members and a Presidium of 15 members. Ms. Truong My Hoa was elected president of the union. Among the members of the Central Committee nine are from ethnic minority origin.

The congress elected the outgoing union president, Ms. Nguyen Thi Dinh, honorary president.

Pham The Duyet at Hanoi Youth Union Meeting

BK2005182792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] In anticipation of the municipal youth union congress, as well as in response to the movement for good people and good deeds, on the morning of 5 May the Hanoi municipal Ho Chi Minh youth union held a get-together of outstanding youths in the capital.

Some 68 youths representing many fields of activity exchanged experiences in the struggle for development.

At the get-together, Comrade Pham The Duyet, secretary of the Hanoi municipal party committee, urged the participants to try even harder to further increase the numbers of progressive models and outstanding members of the youth union.

Irrigation Development in Mekong Delta Viewed

BK2005210392 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 20—The Mekong River delta, a key food-producing area in Vietnam, has [word indistinct] 2.1 million hectares of [word indistinct] or 53 percent of its total [word indistinct].

Over the past 15 years, the Ministry of Water Resources and Local Administration have invested 305 billion VN dong in building irrigation projects in this area. So far, they have built 618 km of dyke to prevent salt water, 162 canals with a total length of 1,810 pumping stations, and 93 medium sized and 862 [word indistinct] sized sluices.

These irrigation projects have helped in the irrigation and drainage of 456,000 ha out of the total 2.1 million hectares of [word indistinct] land, up by seven times over 1980, thus increasing rice output in the region from 949,000 tonnes in 1976 to 2.4 million tonnes in 1990.

In recognition of these great achievements, the State Council and the Council of Ministers have conferred 41 labour [words indistinct] certificates of merit on outstanding localities, units and individuals.

On this occasion, the Ministry of Water Resources conferred 231 certificates of merit on 36 units and 195 individuals in the southern provinces of Long Na, Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Cuu Long and Hau Giang, and five units in the Ministry in acknowledgement of their contributions to irrigation work in the area.

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